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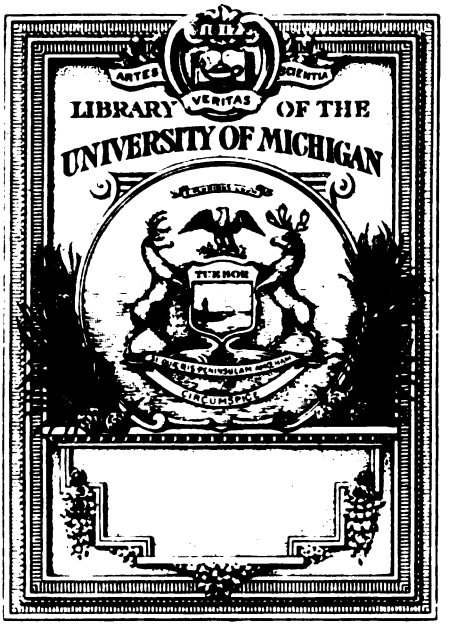
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# AMERICAN ENGLISH



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# THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

*A Preliminary Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States*

BY H. L. MENCKEN

*A new edition, revised and with much additional material in preparation for issue in the fall of 1921.*

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# AMERICAN ENGLISH

By GILBERT M. TUCKER



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## FOREWORD

The following pages are the development of a chapter on the same subject in the author's earlier book, "Our Common Speech," published in 1895 and long out of print, that chapter being itself the development of a paper read before the Albany Institute in 1882, printed in the Tenth Volume of the Transactions of that body, and also printed, in somewhat different form, in the *North American Review* for January, 1883. Several sentences relating to the early bibliography of the subject, included in the Albany Institute paper and repeated in "Our Common Speech," appear with some alterations in the preface of the Sylva Clapin "Dictionary of Americanisms"; and as they appear again in the book now in the reader's hand, it seems advisable to state the facts, lest possibly the present writer might be suspected of plagiarizing from Mr. Clapin.

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# CONTENTS


FOREWORD 5

CHAPTER ONE

IS OUR ENGLISH DEGENERATING? 11

CHAPTER TWO

TEN IMPORTANT TREATISES 49

CHAPTER THREE

EXOTIC AMERICANISMS 70

CHAPTER FOUR

SOME REAL AMERICANISMS 224

CHAPTER FIVE

MISUNDERSTOOD AND IMAGINARY AMERICANISMS 315

CHAPTER SIX

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE SUBJECT 332

INDEX OF WORDS AND PHRASES 347



# AMERICAN ENGLISH

# CHAPTER ONE

## IS OUR ENGLISH DEGENERATING?

"When the American Ambassador tells us, in some degree at least seriously, that better English is spoken in America than in England, it is really a little too much. . . . The Americans . . . are rich. They are, or seem to be, confident of themselves. They excel at the business of games. They make things 'hum.' But it is absurd to pretend they speak good English. Their English, and their spelling of English, which we are sorry to say is imitated by English writers who should know better, are most unpleasant. Their twang is sometimes so."—*Saturday Review, Dec.* 13, 1913.

The above quotation from an editorial in an important London journal epitomizes, in a form very convenient for consideration, the view that seems to be rather generally held in Great Britain of the differences existing, or supposed to exist, between the language of that country and the language of the United States. "We are continually girding at the Americans, and criticizing in a more or less disparaging manner their speech," wrote the late George Augustus Sala in the Illustrated London News. The "girding" has been indulged in at not very protracted intervals, for a long, long time, and by all sorts and conditions of British writers. A well known essayist on matters

verbal, Dean Alford, devoted some pages, in his treatise on what he rather absurdly called "The Queen's English" (as if terms like "the king's English" or "the king's highway" or "the king's evil" needed correction in gender when the sovereign happens to be a woman!) to "the process of deterioration which our queen's English has undergone at the hands of the Americans." A writer of a very different type, John Ruskin, admonished the workmen of Great Britain (Fors Clavigera, No. 42) to remember that "England taught the Americans all they have of speech," the words they have not learned from England being "unseemly words, the vile among them not being able to be humorous parrots, but only obscene mocking birds." Speaking of a book by Mark Twain, the Westminster Review remarked that "English as written, and still more as spoken, by Americans, is another thing from native English," adding that in Mr. Clemens' writings "there are scarcely half a dozen consecutive lines of what we should call pure English," and further that "the modifications which differentiate 'American' from English are for the most part vulgarisms." A book called "The Abounding American," by T. W. H. Crosland, published in London in 1907, informs us (page 14) that the Americans, "having inherited, borrowed or stolen a beautiful language, willfully and of set purpose degrade, distort and misspell it." Any number of similar expressions from British writers might be given, and some expatriated

Americans delight in echoing them. Such an American was Dr. Fitzedward Hall, a recognized authority in philology, who informed the readers of the Nineteenth Century that William Cullen Bryant lived "among a people among whom our language is daily becoming more and more depraved," and that whoever will compare "Edgar Huntly," a novel published in 1799, with Mr. Bryant's letters, "the English of which is not much worse than that of ninety-nine out of every hundred of his college-bred compatriots, will very soon become aware to what degree the art of writing our language has declined among educated" people in the United States.

Now of course there is great temptation to make sharp retorts to statements like the foregoing, especially as our critics generally reveal rather plainly very vulnerable joints in their armor. Dean Alford, for instance, displayed, on the same page on which he spoke of the language as having deteriorated in our hands, a certain lack of familiarity with matters in this country, in his reference to the Northern States as having been engaged in 1864 in "reckless and fruitless maintenance of the most cruel and unprincipled war in the history of the world"; and what is more to the present point, he fell continually into verbal errors himself. Ruskin was guilty of such expressions as these, all in Fors Clavigera too: "A daisy is common, and a baby not uncommon; neither *are* vulgar" (No. 25, note); "None of these minor errors

*are* of the least consequence" (No. 43); "Any one may be a Companion of St. George who sincerely *does what they can* to make *themselves* useful and earn *their* daily bread" (No. 67). Mr. Crosland says (page 105) that "the Chicago method of treating meats are unhealthy," which may possibly be a typographical error; but he doubtless wrote as printed the sentence on page 111, "I have never been to the United States." The qualifications for passing judgment on the language of a country possessed by a writer who could speak of being "to" it, and who confesses that he has never been what in good English is called being "in" it, need hardly be discussed. (I regret to note the same blunder in a book by a writer of widely different calibre, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—"The Vital Message," page 158—and what is unaccountable, Sir Arthur insists, in a courteous private letter to the present writer, that it is correct to say "I have been to Crewe.")

As for "Edgar Huntly," so greatly admired by Dr. Hall for its fine diction, the style of that almost forgotten book is regarded by the historian Prescott (who reviewed it, sympathetically and on the whole admiringly, in one of his miscellaneous essays) as characterized by "unnatural condensation, unusual and pedantic epithets and elliptical forms of expression, in perpetual violation of idiom"—an opinion in which I think every reader of the novel will concur. The second sentence runs thus: "At length does the im-

petuosity of my fears, the transports of my wonder, permit me to recollect"; the transports does. In the second chapter: "Those with whom he lived and were the witnesses of his actions"; no subject for the verb *were*. "A suspicion suggested itself whether my guide did not perceive that he was followed, and thus prolonged (meaning prolong) his journey in order to fatigue his pursuer." Chapter Four: "My leisure was considerable, and my emoluments large"; emoluments was large. Chap. Five: "There is no event on which our felicity and usefulness more materially depend": two things depends. "The choice was not likely to obtain the parental sanction, to whom the moral qualities of their son-in-law were inferior to the considerations of wealth"; no antecedent to the pronoun *whom*. "The ties of kindred, corroborated by habit, was not the only thing that united them"; the ties was not. Chap. Seven: "I charged him to have a watchful eye upon every one that knocked at the gate, and that, if this person should come, by no means to admit him." If anybody can find English like that in anything that Mr. Bryant ever wrote, I should like to have him point it out; and it has seemed worth while, considering Dr. Hall's undoubted eminence in philology, which gives importance to any deliverance of his on any topic relating to language, to show the value of his judgment on questions of grammar and style (philology not being involved), as illustrating the importance that should be attached

to his opinion that the language is "daily becoming more and more depraved" in the United States.

The Saturday Review says it is absurd to pretend that we Americans speak good English, implying of course that good English is the English of Great Britain. If any fair comparison is drawn, it must be either between the speech of people of the same class in the two countries, or else between fair averages, as nearly as they can be had, of all the people of the two countries. If the talk of street loafers in American cities, and the verbal peculiarities that one may find in outlying regions of Texas, are to be counted as characteristic of American speech, we must also take just as careful account, in striking the balance, of the lingo of the slums of London and Edinburgh and Cork, and of the jargon of the most unprogressive counties of the three kingdoms. To compare the conversation of a London drawing-room with the talk that you might hear in a road-house in Arkansas is manifestly unprofitable; nothing can be learned by such methods, though it is to be feared that some of our critics have not invariably been quite as careful as they might be to avoid them.

Good English, the kind that the Saturday Review approves and that it is said we Americans do not speak, ought surely to be heard, if anywhere, in the higher strata of London society. What sort of English, then, is it that one hears there? A number of specimens, given by an English lady who is vouched

for as thoroughly au courant of the speech of the kind of people she portrays—a London nobleman and his wife—may be found in the bright story called "The Marriage Contract," by Alicia Ramsey, published in 1913. The husband is represented as persistently slurring the terminations of present participles, after a fashion confined in this country to the very illiterate; he says *rippin'*, *beginnin'*, *listenin'*, *worryin'*, and so on ad nauseam, even *anythin'*, which I think is one word of the class which you will hardly hear thus mangled by any American, however illiterate. His regard for grammar is shown by his speaking of doing something "like those millionaires did." He talks about a "piffling" law; characterizes an approaching wedding as "a beast of a nuisance," offers to sign "the bally thing," asks his wife at table, not to pass the jam, but to "shove it along," and to "chuck" him another match; and tells her that something "bucks you up." Nor is the bride less elegant. She declares that "marriage is rotten," and something else is "beastly," refers to "old uns like Aunt Jane," calls a famous English sovereign "Billy the Conq," tells her aunt to "buck up," says "it was me," and "expects" it's somebody come to tea. It will hardly be maintained by any well-informed person, I think, that this picture, taken from an ephemeral story as it is, is so overdrawn as to make it grossly misrepresent the conversation of many of the class of people from whom it is to be supposed that the Saturday Reviewer

would have us poor Americans try to learn to talk as we ought to talk. In any case, nothing in the tale is worse English than that used by Sir Francis Knollys, private secretary to King Edward VII, who wrote to Prof. Rawson of the Thirteen Club of New York, Feb. 27, 1896, speaking of the king: "The number of invitations which he receives from different parts of the world to belong to various clubs are extremely numerous"; the number are numerous! Really now, how often do you hear anything as bad as that, among people of any sort of education in the United States?

But perhaps it is in British literature, modern British literature, rather than in the talk of fashionable British people, that we are to find the well of English undefiled from which it would become us Americans to quaff and of which we should endeavor to assimilate the flavor? Well, no very elaborate analysis is necessary to inspire caution in so doing; a few sips will answer. Charles Reade, whom Dr. Fitzedward Hall ranked among "the choicest of (then) living English writers," is guilty of such phrases as "there will be only *us* two at dinner" ("Love me Little," Chap. 1). Our kind friend Dean Alford is authority for the statement that "our best writers (meaning the best British writers) have the popular expression *these kind, those sort,*" where *this kind* or *that sort* is intended; and it is entertaining to read in Blackwood's Magazine, No. 799, the following:

"There are some happy writers whose mission it is to expound the manners and customs of the great. . . . And yet, alas! to these writers when they have done all, yet must we add that they fail to satisfy their models. . . . 'As if *these sort* of people knew anything about society!' Lady Adeliza says." The queer blunder seems to persist in England, for in a novel so recent as "Katherine Bush," by Elinor Glyn, we find one of the characters asking whether her employer has "any particular paper for *these sort* of things" (Cosmopolitan, March, 1916, page 485) and another remarking that "*those kind* of natures always win" (ib., July, 1916, page 176). Dean Alford is also authority for the statement that Eton graduates are especially prone to confuse the verbs *lie* and *lay,* an error very rare in respectable American society and one that has grieved me much in a great English story-teller, Anthony Trollope, as for instance in the 7th chapter of "The Warden": "I have done more than sleep upon it; I have *laid* awake upon it." It occurs also in an extraordinary place for a grammatical error, "Stormonth's English Word-Book," where *laid* is actually given as the participle of *lie!* After noting this, one need hardly be surprised to find the same writer (in the supplement to his excellent dictionary) defining *Alborak* as the name of "the white mule on which Mohammed is said to have *rode* from Jerusalem to heaven." If an American lexicographer were caught using *laid* for *lain* or *rode* for *ridden,* what a text it

would furnish for a dissertation on the process of depraving our mother tongue which is advancing with such alarming rapidity in the United States! Reverting to Trollope, it may be worth while to mention that in a single book, "The Prime Minister," he not only writes: "The duke had *been* up *to* London," chap. 32, and "There are others just as bad as *me*," chap. 51; but three times uses *eat* for *ate:* "That he should be thwarted by her *eat* into his very heart," chap. 32; "In the evening he *eat* a mutton chop," chap. 52; "He drank his tea and *eat* his toast," chap. 60. Or look over the last literary production of an ex-prime-minister of Great Britain, "Endymion," and you find this sort of thing, among other phrases of similar correctness and beauty: "Everybody says what *they like*," chap. 20; "I would never leave him for a moment *only* I know he would get wearied of me," chap. 39; "I have never *been* back *to* the old place," chap. 63; "Everybody can do exactly what *they like*," chap. 98. George Meredith wrote in "Harry Richmond," chap. 5, "you are younger than *me*," and in Chap. 6, "a girl about a year older than *me*." Locke, in "Jaffery," published so recently as 1914, "for such as *him*" (chap. 3); "I have never been *to* Albania" (chap. 5); "that's a place I have never been *to*" (chap. 19); Galsworthy in "Beyond," published 1917, makes the heroine ask, "Who in our world would marry me if *they knew?*" Or take down a more serious work presumably written at leisure and

with care, "Freeman's Historical Essays," and you will find, in the Third Series, gems like these: "One *whom* the mockers of the age said was no fitting guest"; "It may be argued that he either could not nor would not hold Athens"; "The valiant peasantry of old Hellas was of another mould *from* the nobles"; "Their relation to the empire was wholly different from that of the slaves." Or to go farther back, we find in a book long regarded as the highest authority on purposeful speech, "Blair's Rhetoric," this: "Few authors are more clear than Archbishop Tillotson and Sir William Temple; yet neither of them are remarkable for precision." And what is more, you will find in great English books not infrequent instances of highly incorrect constructions that are notoriously British and of which it is almost safe to say that no American is ever guilty. Such a construction is perhaps Freeman's "different to." Such certainly is Spencer's "immediately this is recognized" ("Sociology," chap. 2) and Arnold Bennett's "immediately I left the station" ("Your United States," chap. 3)—meaning in each case *as soon as*—a construction that Murray's Dictionary palliates as "elliptical for *immediately that,*" which explanation seems to me to be one of the very few slips in that wonderful work, considering that if *immediately* is to be used in that fashion at all, the word to supply is not *that,* but *after.* Such a construction also is Anthony Hope's, "the house comes into view directly the drive is entered"

("The Great Miss Driver," chap. 2), which occurs likewise in Buckle, "I put them away directly they came" (letter to Mrs. Grey, Huth's "Life," chap. 2), though Buckle was anything but a careless writer, having devoted great labor for a long time to the acquisition of a correct and polished style of composition. Even worse, as ignoring one of the elementary principles of English grammar, is the frequent occurrence in British books and high-class periodicals of such terms as "parcels post," "inventions exhibition," "rivers pollution commission," and the like. Nobody speaks of a hats rack or a books case or a cloaks room, and everybody ought to know that a noun used to qualify another noun becomes for the time an adjective and is therefore absolutely indeclinable; but while this is perfectly recognized in England in the case of every old combination, it is constantly overlooked in making new ones, and overlooked in the most formal official documents even more than in the careless language of the streets.

If anybody might be expected to avoid solecisms, surely it is a gentleman holding the position of Lecturer for the Oxford University Extension Delegacy. Yet such a gentleman, Prof. John Cowper Powys, falls into the following errors in a single book, "Visions and Revisions": "Are we not those who are neither for God *or* for his enemies?", Dante, 45; "Wordsworth is neither a Christian *or* a pagan," Lamb, 110; "Neither realist *or* psychologist," Dickens, 125; "It

may be neither very useful *or* very moral," Shakespeare, 159; "If a person is hurt by them, that is only an indication that *they are* in grievous need," Rabelais, 31; "Neither of them *know* what lies on the other side of the moon," Dante, 43; "Not one of them but *have* murderous feet," Dickens, 124; and the peculiarly awkward phrase, "He is the most widely known *of any* stylist," Lamb, 105.

However, the Tu Quoque argument is unconvincing and unsatisfactory at best; and it is admittedly impracticable to institute any very instructive comparison between either the fashionable or the literary language of the two countries. It is not quite so difficult to compare what after all counts for most, and what was probably in the Saturday Reviewer's mind, the average speech of our British cousins and of our own people. Is the former superior to the latter? I have the authority of the American ambassador referred to, Mr. Page, for saying that his only allusion to the matter was in a single sentence which he meant as a pleasantry and which was so understood by his hearers. But there is a proverb about true words spoken in jest; and I believe it will be found, on weighing the evidence, not only that the well known dramatic critic, Mr. William Archer, is right in declaring ("America To-day," page 253) that "the idea that the English language is degenerating in America is an absolutely groundless illusion," but also that the ambassador was quite justified in making, if he

did make it, the statement that so stirred the ire of the Saturday Reviewer, that statement being after all only an almost word-for-word repetition of what Sir George Campbell had written (in his book of travel called "White and Black") that "of the body of the American people it may be said that their language is English a little better than that used in any county of England." It is of course impossible to establish any standard of ideal correctness by which the two varieties of speech might be judged to see which of them falls the more seriously below it; but comparisons between the two, on points about which there can hardly be difference of opinion, may nevertheless be instituted, and should furnish some grounds for a general verdict in favor of one or the other.

In the first place, it will hardly be denied in any quarter that the speech of the United States is quite unlike that of Great Britain in the important particular that *we have no dialects*. "I never found any difficulty in understanding an American speaker," writes the historian Freeman; "but I have often found it difficult to understand a Northern-English speaker." "From Portland, Me., to Portland, Oregon," says a writer in the Westminster Review, "no trace of a distinct dialect is to be found. The man from Maine, even though he may be of inferior education and limited capacity, can completely understand the man of Oregon. There is no peasant with a *patois;* there is no rough Northumbrian burr; in point of fact, there

is no brogue." Trifling variations in pronunciation, and in the use of a few particular words, certainly exist. The Yankee "expects" or "calculates," while the Virginian "reckons" [1]; the illiterate Northerner "claims," [2] and the Southerner of similar class, by a very curious reversal of the blunder, "allows," what better educated people merely assert. The pails and pans of the world at large become "buckets" when taken to Kentucky. It is "evening" in Richmond while afternoon still lingers a hundred miles due north at Washington. Vessels go into "docks" on their arrival at Philadelphia, but into "slips" at Mobile; they are tied up to "wharves" at some ports, but to "piers," of exactly the same construction, at others. Distances from place to place are measured by "squares" in Baltimore, by "blocks" in Chicago. The "shilling" of old New York is the "levy" of Pennsylvania, the "bit" of San Francisco, the "ninepence" of old New England, and the "escalan" of New Orleans. But put all these variations together, with such others as more microscopic examination might reveal, and

[1] No American ever uses this word with an infinitive, as occurs twice in Mr. Arnold Bennett's delightful and really brilliant book, "Your United States." He writes (p. 16), "I reckon to do a bit in that line," and (p. 126), "We reckon to be connoisseurs." The verb, it will be noticed, appears to have quite different significations in these two sentences, meaning (I suppose) *expect* in the first and *claim* in the second.

[2] And sometimes, alas! the Northerner who is not illiterate. Prof. Whitney, editor of the great Century Dictionary, is more than once guilty of this barbarism in his "Elements of English Pronunciation"; and so is Prof. L. T. Townsend of the Boston University, in his work on the "Art of Speech."

how far short they fall of representing anything like the real dialectic differences of speech that obtain, and always have obtained, not only as between any two of the three kingdoms, but even between contiguous sections of England itself! What two regions can be found within our borders, however sequestered and unenlightened, and however widely separated by geographical position, of which the speech of the one presents any difficulty worth mentioning, or even any very startling unfamiliarity in sound or construction, to the inhabitant of the other? Our omnipresent railroads, telegraph lines, mail routes and printing presses, and the well-marked disposition of every class of our people to make lavish use of these means of intercommunication, both for the rapid diffusion of intelligence and the interchange of opinion, and also, so far as lines of travel are concerned, for the frequent transportation of the people themselves hither and thither, with a degree of ease and celerity to which no other country has ever attained—these causes have always favored, and seem likely permanently to preserve, a certain community of expression as well as of thought, that not only is practically prohibitive of the formation of new dialects, but also rapidly effaces the prominent lineaments of such variations as have at different times been imported from the old world.

Compare this homogeneity of speech with the conditions that obtain in Great Britain. "Even now," writes the Dean of Ely in the Outlook, "a west-coun-

try peasant cannot understand the tongue of Yorkshire—as I know well, for I was a country parson in Devonshire for four years—and speaks of him too, occasionally, as a 'farriner.'" Yorkshire and Devonshire are separated by what seems to Americans the trifling distance of about 180 miles, nearer each other than are Pennsylvania and Indiana; and the speech of the two counties is mutually unintelligible. Think of the jargons that you hear in other districts also, districts in which only English is supposed to be spoken—the varied patois of Scotland, of Wales, of many parts of Ireland, of considerable regions in England itself. I shall never forget—and many readers must have had similar experience if, like myself, they enjoy talking with all sorts of people, and especially with specimens of sorts that are new to them—I shall never forget trying one day, on a steamer, to converse with an English workingman, English born and bred, and finding it just barely possible to understand him. He recognized the difficulty himself, and apologized, saying, as near as I can represent him: "Ah know thut ah hahv ah varra bahd ahxunt." Find anything like that in the United States if you can. And here is part of an editorial article in the New York Times:

"Over here we enrage our cousins by talking about their 'English accent,' calmly ignoring the fact that their speech is standard, and we have the 'accent,' not they. But one of the war correspondents laments that the English troops in France and Belgium often cannot make themselves understood even

to the foreigners who speak the English of the schools, for such instruction as is there received does not qualify the student for intelligent converse with soldiers who talk in 'Welsh, Scotch, Yorkshire or Whitechapel.' The results are sometimes serious, especially when dealing with native guides, and the demand is for interpreters competent to translate the speech of British soldiers, not into French or German, but into an English comprehensible to a Frenchman or German who speaks—English."

The very literature of the subject tells the story. There are I don't know how many glossaries of dialects in England—no fewer than 250 would be necessary to cover the ground, according to the statement of a member of the Yorkshire Dialect Society; and some of them are quite big books with an appalling list of terms unknown outside of a very restricted region; find anything like that condition of affairs in the United States if you can. The fourth chapter of this book gives an approximately complete list of all words and phrases really peculiar to this country, and it contains about 1900 entries. Compare this with Halliwell's Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words in Great Britain and Davies' Supplement to the same, which explain, between them, perhaps sixty thousand expressions. Undoubtedly the immense majority of the entries in these books are obsolete terms and words highly local; but that is also true of my list of Americanisms. Of the whole 1900 I am quite sure that I have never in my life heard more than about 1100 used, most of these being vul-

gar locutions that neither I nor anybody likely to read this book would ever think of using, and I doubt whether a fifth of the whole number would strike any American as being really familiar.

It ought to be remembered also that the ordinary speech of the United States presents not greatly more of what may be termed caste variations than of those that are attributable to differences of locality. A discriminating English traveler, the Rev. F. Barham Zincke, once chaplain-in-ordinary to Queen Victoria, mentions as "a remarkable fact that the English spoken in America is not only very pure, but also is spoken with equal purity by all classes. . . . The language in every man's mouth is that of literature and society; spoken at San Francisco just as it is spoken at New York and on the Gulf of Mexico just as on the great lakes. It is even the language of the negroes in the towns. There is nothing resembling this in Europe, where every county, as in England, or every province and canton, has a different dialect. . . . Often, in parts of the country most remote from each other, in wooden shanties and the poorest huts, I had this interesting fact of the purity and identity of the language of the Americans forced on my attention. And at such times I thought, not without shame and sorrow, of the wretched vocabulary, consisting of not more than three or four hundred words, and those often ungrammatically used, and always more or less mispronounced, of our peasantry."

In other words, the speech of even the lower orders of our American people, whether examined in regard to its vocabulary, its construction or its pronunciation, is distinctly better English than is generally spoken on the other side of the sea, taking the whole of the three kingdoms together.

The Saturday Review finds our "twang" sometimes unpleasant, and no American with any sort of ear for fine sounds will disagree with him. Very unpleasant it certainly often is, as one hears it from many American mouths, especially in Europe, when contrasted with the lower-pitched, softer voices of many English people, notably those of English ladies; and teachers and parents of American children will do well to pay more attention to inculcating better intonation. But "twang," after all, is not peculiar to this side of the ocean. I am told that the "jerking tone of voice popularly called the Parliamentary twang" which Bulwer Lytton noted (in "My Novel," Book 10, Chap. 44) is about as observable now as it was when that book appeared. And then—a more important point—one must be careful not to draw the comparison only with the speech of well-bred English people. Have our rural and laboring classes anything to learn from the management of their voices by the peasantry of the three kingdoms or the poorer classes of British towns? Could you find material in this country for a composition like Tennyson's "Northern Farmer"? Who ever heard an American, of however humble social

position, so speak that it was difficult to distinguish his words? Where, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, will you discover any such utter disability of hearing or discernment as can permit men to drop or multiply their *h*'s or transpose their *w*'s and *v*'s? Who ever heard an American gamin call paper *piper*, or lady *lidy*, or rain *rine*, or take *tike?* Outside of a very restricted district in New England (it being distinctly a Yankee provincialism) who ever heard an American call *pound* as it seems to me that all Englishmen pronounce it, *paound?* Says the Westminster Review, No. 234, page 278: "If an Englishman is introduced as a character in a French vaudeville, the first words he is made to say are *'Aoh, nao,'* to announce as it were his nationality; this impurity in the sound of *o* is undoubtedly a vice in our pronunciation, ridiculed wherever we are known in Europe." On the whole, it appears to me that if, as I believe is the case, a nasal twang is the only fault that can be found with American intonation broadly considered, we make up for it and more than make up for it in half a dozen other respects in which we speak our words better than the majority of British people speak them. Prof. Ernest Whitney put it this way, in a very elaborate review of the matter published in the New York Tribune: "In England, where we should naturally look for a standard, pronunciation in general is worse than in America. That vulgarisms are heard far oftener, that carelessness and indifference in enunciation are

more common, even among the higher classes, is the frequent testimony of careful and practised observers. These facts may be said to be demonstrated by the published testimony of a foremost British phonetist."

And when it is a question of orthoëpy proper, the deliberate sounding of single words, it will be found that in almost every case of difference between the English and the American practice, the difference is due to the American's following more closely the spelling of the word, a practice that can hardly result in depraving the language but rather the reverse, working in the direction of what is certainly very desirable, greater regularity and simplicity. Thus the thoroughly anglicized French words *fracas, trait, lieutenant* and *charade* are still called *frahcah, tray, leftenant* (which is quite anomalous, neither French nor English) and *charahd,* in England, but never here. The *l* of *almond,* commonly sounded in this country, is silent abroad. *Sliver,* which Americans call *slĭver,* following the obvious analogy of the more common word *liver,* and following, too, the example of Chaucer, is largely called *slīver* in Great Britain. *Schedule,* which we invariably pronounce *skedule,* is in England *shedule,* being the only word in common use in the language in which initial *sch* has the German sound. *Shone,* which we make rhyme with *bone,* is *shon* in England, a pronunciation absolutely anomalous, not following the analogy even of any of the very few words ending in *-one*—like *done, one* and

*gone*—which do not rhyme with *bone*. The accentuation of the verb *perfect* on the second syllable, bringing it into harmony with *perfume, cement, desert, present, produce, progress, project, rebel, record,* and other words which are accented on the final syllable when used as verbs—originated in this country. *Nephew* and *phial,* which constitute in England the only exceptions to the otherwise universal law that the digraph *ph,* when sounded at all, is sounded like *f,* are both reduced to rule in this country, by pronouncing the first *nefew* (it is *nevew* in England) and spelling the second *vial. Hostler,* always pronounced by Americans as it is spelled, is marked *ostler* in, I believe, all British dictionaries.

And in respect to geographical names, the closer adherence of our countrymen to the guidance of the orthography is, of course, notorious and manifest. Except the dropping, in imitation of the French, of the *s* of *Illinois;* the two words *Connecticut* and *Arkansas* (the latter a very doubtful exception); and a few terms like *Sioux,* derived from corruptions of Indian names—it is not easy to recall any geographical appellation indigenous to our soil which is not pronounced very nearly as it is spelled. And when names are imported with a well-authorized divergence between the sound and the spelling, a strong tendency toward the obliteration of this divergence is sure to become manifest. *Warwick* is about as often *Warwick* as *War'ick* when spoken of in America; *Norwich*

is more commonly *Norwich,* I think, than *Noridge; St. Louis* and *Louisville* are often called *St. Lewis* and *Lewisville;* a resident of Delaware County in New York would not know what place was meant if you spoke of the county seat as "Daily," so perfectly settled is "Delhī" as the pronunciation as well as the spelling of the name. A multitude of other instances might be mentioned, among the most remarkable of which, perhaps, is the change that has taken place in the popular sounding of the name *Chautauqua.* As long as it was spelled with a final *e,* people persisted in saying *Chautawk,* notwithstanding that the local practice was always otherwise; but an immediate reformation was effected by the simple expedient of substituting an *a.* It is probably quite safe to say that no mispronunciation of a geographical name, growing out of an attempt to follow too closely the sound of its letters, has ever become so prevalent in Great Britain as even to suggest the idea of making the spelling conform to the orthoëpy, and, furthermore, that if such a difficulty occurred, the attempted remedy in question would be found in that country quite unproductive of any change in the popular usage.

Passing from orthoëpy to orthography, it hardly need be said that in every instance without exception where a change in spelling has originated in the United States, the change has been in the direction of simplicity, and in the interest therefore of the "re-

form" which the Philological Society of Great Britain (not to mention such individual names as Max Müller, Sir J. A. H. Murray, Prof. Newman, the Duke of Richmond, and Mr. Gladstone) so warmly favors. The dropping of the second *g* in *waggon,* the second *l* in *traveller,* the *u* in *parlour* and similar words, the *me* in *programme* (who would think of writing *diagramme* or *telegramme?*), the *e* in *storey* (of a house), and the final *e* in *pease*[1] (plural of pea), are all changes in this direction; and so is the substitution of *w* for *ugh* in *plough,* and *f* for *ugh* in *draught,* and the abandonment of the spellings *cheque, shew, cyder,* and especially *gaol,* the universal adoption of *jail* bringing this word into harmony with the rest of the language, as there is no other instance in English of a soft *g* before *a*—notwithstanding that some absurd people, who do not call Margaret *Marjaret* or Garfield *Jarfield,* will persist in saying *oleomarjarine.*

A propos of the spelling *traveller,* a sentence from the Preface to the latest British popular dictionary, the "Concise Oxford," is of interest, as indicating the bias of some English authorities, for this dictionary unquestionably *is* an authority, perhaps on the whole the very best work of its kind published in either country; but look at the prejudice! The editors say: "In dealing with verbs such as *level, rivet, bias,* whose parts and derivatives are variously spelt, the

[1] Of course *peas* was not originally a plural word, but nobody thinks of it otherwise now.

final consonant being often doubled with no phonetic or other significance, we have as far as possible fallen in with the present tendency, which is to drop the useless letter, but stopped short of recognizing forms that at present strike every reader as Americanisms; thus we write *riveted, riveter,* but not *traveling, traveler.*" There is some justification for the doubled consonant in each of these two verbs when a suffix beginning with *i* or *e* is added, as having what the sentence quoted well describes as "phonetic significance"; for it may be argued that the spelling *riveting* might suggest the mispronunciation *rīve-ting* and traveler might suggest *trayve-ler* (two syllables), but that is just exactly as true of the former word, which the Concise Oxford Dictionary recognizes, as it is of the latter, which the same authority scorns, notwithstanding the editors' recognizing "the present tendency to drop the useless letter" and their implied admission that the forms "that at present strike every reader as Americanisms" are quite likely, in time, to prevail everywhere. The only reason for their endeavoring to delay what they see to be a reform that is surely coming, is that it originated in the United States!

It should be noted moreover that our American practice of dropping the *u* from the termination of many words ending in England in *-our* is more than a movement in the direction of spelling reform, for it cancels the etymological misinformation suggested by the orthography in use across the sea. Some peo-

ple imagine that the *u* in these words has value, or at least a certain sort of interest, as indicating that they came to us through the French and not directly from Latin or other tongues—rather an unimportant matter at best; but the trouble is that, with the exception of just two words and those of rather infrequent use—*savour* and *tabour*—the indication either points the wrong way or would almost certainly be overlooked except by persons familiar with entirely obsolete Gallic spellings. The *u* is omitted, even in England, from *ambassador, ancestor, bachelor, editor, emperor, error, exterior, governor, inferior, metaphor, mirror, progenitor, senator, superior, successor* and *torpor*, every one of which is of French origin, while it is used in *demeanor* and *succor*, which are only very remotely and indirectly French, and in *arbor, behavior, clangor, flavor, harbor* and *neighbor*, which are not French at all. Even in *ardor, armor, candor, endeavor, favor, honor, labor, odor, parlor, rigor, rumor, savior, splendor, tumor* and *vapor*, where the *u* has some color of right to appear, it is doubtful whether its insertion has much value as suggesting French derivation, for in the case of twelve of these words the ordinary reader would be quite certain to have in mind only the modern spelling—*ardeur, armure, candeur, faveur, honneur, labeur, odeur, rigueur, rumeur, splendeur, tumeur* and *vapeur*—which have the *u* indeed but no *o* (and why should not one of these letters be dropped as well as the other?)—while *endeavor,*

*parlor* and *savior* come from old French words that are themselves without the u—*devoir, parleor* and *saveor*. The *u* in all these words is therefore either useless or positively misleading. And finally in the case of *color, clamor, fervor, humor, rancor, valor* and *vigor,* it is to be remarked that the exact "American" orthography actually occurs in old French! "Finally," I said, but that is not quite the end of British absurdity with these *-our -or* words. Insistent as our transatlantic cousins are on writing *arbour, armour, clamour, clangour, colour, dolour, flavour, honour, humour, labour, odour, rancour, rigour, savour, valour, vapour* and *vigour,* and "most unpleasant" as they find the omission of the excrescent *u* in any of these words, they nevertheless make no scruple of writing the derivatives in the American way —*arboreal, armory, clamorous, clangorous, colorific, dolorous, flavorous, honorary, humorous, laborious, odorous, rancorous, rigorous, savory, valorous, vaporize* and *vigorous*—not inserting the *u* in the second syllable of any one of these words. The British practice is, in short and to speak plainly, a jumble of confusion, without rhyme or reason, logic or consistency; and if anybody finds the American simplification of the whole matter "unpleasant," it can be only because he is a victim of unreasoning prejudice against which no argument can avail.

In respect to at least one "Yankee" spelling, that of *plow,* and probably others, it should not be forgotten

that the prevalent practice in this country agrees with the universal custom of an earlier time, from which divergence without good reason has gradually grown up in England. And this brings us to another strongly marked characteristic of our American speech —its greater permanence and steadiness, so to speak, as compared with that of the mother country. This peculiarity will appear very clearly, where it might least be expected, on close examination of any list of words supposed to have been greatly distorted in their meaning, or even manufactured out of whole cloth, by erring Yankees, a very large proportion of which will almost always be found to be good old English, grown obsolescent or obsolete at home, but preserved in the New World in their pristine vitality and force; and conversely, on examining such a book as "The Lost Beauties of the English Language," by the well known Scotch litterateur Dr. Charles Mackay, more than a hundred of the entries therein listed being perfectly familiar in the United States, however definitely they may have been "lost" in Great Britain. Here are some examples, taken almost at random: *Aftermath; bilk,* to defraud; *blare,* to cry out, as with the sound of a trumpet; *blear-eyed; blurt,* to cry out suddenly; *burly; chaffer,* to haggle; *cleave,* to split; *clump,* to walk awkwardly; *croon,* to hum a tune; *daze; deft; delve; don,* to put on; *drouth; drowsy; duds,* old clothes; *dumps,* melancholy; *gall,* sore place; *glint; glower; gown; grip,* to seize; *hale,* in good health;

*hotfoot; laze,* to idle; *loathly; loon,* a stupid lout; *lovable; lubber; maul,* a heavy hammer; *mole,* a spot on the skin; *mother-tongue; overhopeful; raid,* a predatory incursion on horseback; *rift; roil; rung* of a ladder; *sag; slake; slick; smock; soggy; spunky; stalwart; stowaway; stubby; swelter; taut; thill; throaty; thud; tiff; toot; trig; watershed; yowl.* Evidence pointing in the same direction may be found in Halliwell's Dictionary of Archaisms and Provincialisms, which contains, presumably, no word now in good use in Great Britain in the meaning given, but in which the American reader will discover a considerable number of terms—nearly three hundred, I should say—which he has heard all his life. I give the following examples, not including any that are marked provincial, the implication being that all these words were once good English, but are no longer in common use in the mother country: *Adze* (a carpenter's tool); *affectation* ("a curious desire for a thing which nature hath not given"); *afterclap; agape; age* as a verb; *air* in the sense of appearance; *amerce; andirons; angry,* said of a wound; *appellant* (one who appeals); *apple-pie order; baker's dozen; bamboozle; bay* in a barn; *bay* window; *bearers* at a funeral; *berate; between whiles; bicker; blanch* (to whiten); *brain* as a verb; *burly; cast* (to tie and throw down, as a horse); *catcall; cesspool; chafe* (to grow angry); *clodhopper; clutch* (to seize); *clutter; cockerel; coddle; copious; cosey; counterfeit* money;

*crazy* in the sense of dilapidated, as applied to a building; *crock* (an earthen vessel); *crone* (an old woman); *crook* (a bend); *croon; cross-grained* in the sense of obstinate or peevish; *cross-patch; cross purposes; cuddle; cuff* (to beat); *deft; din; dormer* window; *earnest,* money given to bind a bargain; *egg on; greenhorn; hasp; jack of all trades; jamb* of a door; *lintel; list* (selvage of cloth); *loop* hole; *nettled* (out of temper); *newel; ornate; perforce; piping hot; pit* (mark left by small-pox); *quail* (to shrink); *ragamuffin; riffraff; rigmarole; scant; seedy* ("miserable looking"); *shingles; sorrel* (the color); *out of sorts; stale* ("wanting freshness"); *sutler; thill; toady; trash; underpinning.* All these words, with many others equally familiar in the United States, are apparently regarded by Halliwell as having become obsolete in England.

The preceding remarks on Halliwell are repeated from the present writer's earlier book, "Our Common Speech," and a curious side-light is thrown on the prevalence of dialectical diversities of speech in Great Britain by the fact that a kindly and courteous English reviewer of that book, Mr. William Archer, was amazed at anybody's supposing that the words quoted are obsolete in Great Britain. "Most of them," he says ("America Today," page 222) "are in everyday use; how Halliwell ever came to class these words as archaic I cannot imagine." He did so class them nevertheless; and as he was F. R. S., Honorary Mem-

ber of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Ashmolean Society at Oxford, and connected with a dozen other associations of learned men, he certainly cannot be considered an ignorant person; and the only possible conclusion is that great numbers of words perfectly familiar to the dramatic critic never had come to the notice of a distinguished British lexicographer except in ancient writings, so that he supposed them to be entirely out of use. Find, if you can, any two American writers who entertain any such diversity of view about any list of words you can draw up.

It would not be difficult, on the other hand, to compile quite a list of Briticisms,[1] including words, recently invented, and seemingly without necessity, in Great Britain (where the "boldness of innovation on this subject," amounting to "absolute licentiousness," which Noah Webster noted and deplored in his preface of 1847, still runs rampant)—such as *navvy* for *laborer, randomly* for *at random,* and *bumper* for *enormous;* and a larger list of old words now used in that country in a comparatively new and in some respects objectionable signification not generally recognized in the United States, such as *knocked-up* for *fatigued, famous* for *excellent, rot* for *nonsense, good*

[1] The present writer will not assert positively that he invented this now well accepted word; but believes that his use of it in a paper read before the Albany Institute, June 6, 1882 (Transactions, Vol. 10, p 341) is the first on record, antedating by fifteen months as it does the earliest citation given by Murray.

*form* for *in good taste, trap* for *carriage, tub* for *bathe, assist* for *be present, gun* for *gunner, whip* for *driver, tidy* for almost anything complimentary, and most emphatically *expect* for *suppose,* with no implication of anticipation of the future, "a misuse" which Murray says "is often cited as an Americanism, but is very common in dialectical, vulgar or carelessly colloquial speech in England." It occurs multitudinously in English books, even those of good writers, as everybody knows. You will find it a dozen times, for instance, in Anthony Hope's "The Great Miss Driver"—"I expect he liked the scholar and gentleman part" (chap. 2), "I don't expect Aunt Sara shaved you much" (chap. 6), and so on. This misuse is certainly the reverse of "very common" in this country; I question whether the American reader can remember ever hearing it except in Great Britain. It may be added that Mr. Hope is guilty, in the book referred to, of several gross errors in syntax, like "he's been *to* so many queer places" (chap. 4), "Jenny and I had been *to* Fillingford" (chap. 11), and, perhaps worst of all, "really it must be *her.*"

It is not only, however, in recent coinages and anomalous assigning of new meanings to old terms that the English have made rather reckless changes in the body of our speech where the American practice adheres to the former standard. They have swung off in the opposite direction also, curtailing to no good purpose the significance of a number of words.

A "young person" is always a girl in England, the term never being applied to a boy. A latter-day Briton—notwithstanding an example so recent as Macaulay, "the richest inhabitants exhibited their wealth, not by riding in carriages"—is horrified at the idea of riding in anything built on the coach plan, unless possibly it may be an automobile, though he makes no scruple of riding in an omnibus or a street car; when you enter a vehicle at the end, you ride; when at the side, you drive. A beast is now in Great Britain always a member of the genus *bos*, and almost always an animal that is to be fed for beef; English official market reports give prices for "beasts," "sheep," "calves," "pigs" and "milch cows," and I have read in a Dublin newspaper, speaking of an outbreak of rabies, that "two dogs, five beasts, one pig and one horse were killed during the week." Most remarkable of all is the queer British notion that an invalid must be described as ill, and by no means as sick, unless he happens to be nauseated. I call it queer, because no Englishman would characterize the person as an ill man or an ill child, or speak of him as confined to an ill-room or the ill-bay on a ship, or stretched upon an ill-bed; no Englishman would say that a soldier answered an ill call or went home on ill leave, or that a quarantine officer was called by flying an ill flag, or that anybody was home-ill or love-ill or heart-ill; no Englishman would hesitate to say that somebody sickened or was sickly.

The constant usage of centuries in Great Britain supports our American practice of regarding *sick* as a general term. It is so used sixty times in the King James Bible, where also sickness in the same sense occurs 22 times; *sick,* with no implication of nausea, is found in Shakespeare 138 times, and *sickness* 48 times. The English prayer-book not only contains services for the "visitation of the sick" and the "communion of the sick" and specifies that "it appertaineth to the office of a deacon to search for the sick," but requires those who use it to make intercession for "all sick persons" as often as the Litany is read. Notwithstanding all that, the present fashion in Great Britain absolutely forbids you to say that anybody is sick, unless his stomach is upset.

Another peculiarity of recent British speech and literature is the insertion of superfluous words that an American speaker or writer would never think of putting in. So important an authority as Henry J. Nicoll says—"Landmarks of English Literature," Introduction, page 18—"Every critic occasionally meets *in* with works of great fame of which he cannot appreciate the merit." Beaconsfield writes, "Endymion," Chap. 100, "He was *by way of* intimating that he was engaged in a great work." So Trollope, "Dr. Thorne," Chap. 19, "Is he *by way of* a gentleman?" In Herbert Spencer's "Education," Chap. 10, we read that "in Russia the infant mortality is *something* enormous," and in one of Charles Dickens'

letters to Mr. Forster: "The daily difference in (a ship's) rolling, as she burns the coals out, is *something* absolutely fearful." It need hardly be remarked that the italicized words in these sentences have to be removed before they become intelligible, or at least agreeable to persons appreciating really correct speech. The peculiar misuse of the affix *ever*, as in asking, "What*ever* are you doing?" that one so often notices in the conversation particularly of English ladies, is another instance of the same failing. And who has not been annoyed and disgusted by the innumerable *gots* with which so many English pages fairly bristle, the ugly word, perhaps the most cacophanous of the language, being constantly stuck in (as in "Endymion," Chap. 50—"I have got some House of Commons men dining with me") where the idea of getting is not intended in the slightest degree to be conveyed, but only that of present possession. The general American dislike of this ugly word, and our practice, where the past participle of the verb *get* must be used, of employing the old and softer form *gotten* (now very unfashionable in England), certainly mark tendencies in the reverse direction to that of ruining the language.

A misuse of the progressive form of verbs which is becoming somewhat fashionable in this country but I believe to have originated rather recently in England, may be noted here, a misuse confined chiefly to writing. That is the expression "I am sending you" when

one should say "I send you," or "I am giving a dinner next week" when one should say "I give (or am to give) a dinner." The progressive form indicates either action often repeated, as in the correct phrase "I am sending reports every week," or else continuous action, as one might say "I am writing" when he is actually engaged in writing at the moment. To use that form for other purposes is unidiomatic and inadvisable, as blurring the definite meaning.

To sum up, it appears to me that the chief points of difference between the speech of the United States and that of Great Britain are that (1) we have no dialects, either geographical or social, whereas there are any number of them in Great Britain; (2) that our pronunciation, while sometimes regrettably harsh, is much clearer and more systematic than that of our transatlantic cousins; (3) that our spelling, in every case where there is well established difference, is to be preferred to that of England on any possible basis of comparison; and (4)—a point that will be somewhat elaborately developed in the third chapter of this book—that the mother tongue suffers far less in this country than abroad from freakish changes of fashion, whether in regard to the vocabulary itself or the significance attached to hundreds of words. As a distinguished and eloquent Irishman, the late Rev. Dr. John Hall, wrote in the New York Ledger of Aug. 28, 1880—and it is just as true today:

"English people sometimes speak of Americans as if they had a degenerate variation of the English tongue. The prejudice is less strong than it used to be, but it still lingers in many quarters. The American portion of the family left the mother country when the language was free of many recent and undesirable additions; and it consisted, moreover, in a marked degree, of educated persons. The result is that American English contrasts favorably, as a whole, with that spoken in the British Isles; and it is not too much to say that in London, the place of the present writing, there is more barbarous and indefensible English uttered than in all the United States."

## CHAPTER TWO

## TEN IMPORTANT TREATISES

"Here, it is said, is a dictionary of Americanisms, compiled by an American, a large, closely printed octavo. To what a condition has the English language been brought in America! I have heard such remarks made more than once by intelligent Englishmen; I have seen them more than once in print."—*Richard Grant White, Atlantic Monthly, April,* 1878.

"A collection of unauthorized words and phrases to be found in the pages of respectable English writers of the present day, on the plan of Pickering's Vocabulary, would be a very acceptable service rendered to our literature."—*Eclectic Review, London, April,* 1820.

Neither the general drift of the preceding chapter nor any allegation or argument it contains is to be taken as evincing the smallest inclination to dispute or minimize the obvious truth that a considerable number of new, and in many cases uncalled for, words and expressions have been invented and now pass current in the United States, or that the meaning of various others has been gradually warped, to the injury of the language, just as has occurred in England. This part of the subject has been laboriously investigated by a line of diligent students, so laboriously that there is little left to say about it except in the way of cor-

rections and additions. Not to speak of articles in periodicals, brief essays, and single chapters, no fewer than fifteen books devoted entirely to so-called Americanisms in speech have from time to time appeared—ten of them of special importance—Pickering's "Vocabulary," published in 1816; Webster's "Letter," in 1817; Elwyn's "Glossary," in 1859; De Vere's "Americanisms," in 1872; Bartlett's "Dictionary," first edition in 1848, second in 1859, third in 1860, fourth and last in 1877; Farmer's "Americanisms," in 1889; Norton's "Political Americanisms," in 1890; Clapin's "Dictionary of Americanisms," in 1902; Thornton's "American Glossary," in 1912; and Mencken's "American Language," in 1919. It is worth noting that Norton's little compilation and Mencken's monumental treatise are the only works later than Bartlett's for which the world is indebted to a native American; for Mr. Farmer is an Englishman who had never, I believe, even visited this country before he wrote; Mr. Clapin is a Canadian, though he passed several years in the United States; and Prof. Thornton is English by birth, an American citizen however by naturalization and a resident of this country for half his life, having been a member of the faculty of the Oregon University for nearly twenty years, and being still a member of the Philadelphia bar. The student of language will find much to interest and not a little to amuse him in each of the collections of monstrosities named, for collections of

monstrosities—with the exception of Webster's "Letter"—they mainly are.

## I

John Pickering's "Vocabulary, or Collection of Words and Phrases" which have been supposed to be peculiar to the United States, originated in the author's practice, while living in London during the first two years of the last century, of noting down, for the purpose of avoiding them, such of his own verbal expressions as were condemned for American errors by his British friends. After returning to this country, he communicated a paper on the subject, consisting of an essay and a list of words, to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and shortly after, having largely amplified the vocabulary, submitted the whole to the candor of his countrymen for their instruction and admonition. The poor man was deeply concerned for the future of the language in America, and very much in earnest in his work. It might indeed be a long time, he thought, before it should "be the lot of many Americans to publish works which will be read out of their own country; yet all who have the least tincture of learning will continue to feel an ardent desire to acquaint themselves with English authors. Let us then," he proceeds, "imagine the time to have arrived when Americans shall no longer be able to understand the works of Milton,

Pope, Swift, Addison and other English authors justly styled classic without the aid of a translation into a language that is to be called at some future day the American tongue! . . . Nor is this the only view in which a radical change of language would be an evil. To say nothing of the facilities afforded by a common language in the ordinary intercourse of business, it should not be forgotten that our religion and our laws are studied in the language of the nation from which we are descended; and, with the loss of the language, we should finally suffer the loss of those peculiar advantages which we now derive from the investigations of the jurists and divines of that country."

To do what lay in his power to avert a calamity so appalling, was the object that Mr. Pickering had in view; and lest his own impressions should be faulty, or his imperfect knowledge of pure English should prove inadequate to the task of properly branding all the principal American corruptions, he took the pains of submitting his list to several well-informed friends, and particularly to two English gentlemen whose authority he considered beyond question, although he admits that as they had lived some twenty years in America, "their ear had lost much of that sensibility to deviations from the pure English idiom which would once have enabled them to pronounce with decision in cases where they now felt doubts." As finally published, the "Vocabulary" contains over five

hundred words, of which not more than about fifty are really of American origin and at any time in general respectable use. As examples of these may be cited: *Backwoodsman, belittle, bookstore, breadstuff, caucus, creek* in the sense of brook or small stream, *gubernatorial, intervale, salt-lick, portage, rapids, samp, section* of the country, *sleigh,* and *staging* for scaffolding. The other nine-tenths of the book consists of mere vulgarisms and blunders, unauthorized expressions invented by eccentric writers and never generally adopted, and words really British in origin though perhaps not current in good London society.

## II

Noah Webster's "Letter to the Honorable John Pickering on the subject of his Vocabulary" is a duodecimo of sixty pages, dated "Dec. 1816." The lexicographer regarded himself, or the principles that he taught, as at least indirectly attacked by the "Vocabulary" without necessity or reason. As for Mr. Pickering's apprehension that American speech might become in time so depraved that English authors could not be read in this country without translation, he says he "might oppose to this supposition another, which is nearly as probable, that the rivers in America will turn their courses, and flow from the sea to the tops of the hills." Whatever change may be taking place, moreover, he thinks it quite vain to attempt to

stop, especially as changes are occurring in England as well: "You take some pains," he says, "to ascertain the point, whether the people of this country now speak and write the English language with purity. The result is, that we have, in several instances, departed from the standard of the language, as spoken and written in England at the present day. Be it so —it is equally true, that the English have departed from the standard, as it appears in the works of Addison. And this is acknowledged by yourself. It is equally true that Addison, Pope and Johnson deviated from the standard of the age of Elizabeth. Now, sir, where is the remedy?" Wherever else it may lie—if remedy is desirable or possible—it certainly does not lie, Dr. Webster thought, in slavish imitation of British practices. "With regard to the general principle that we must use only such words as the English use," he proceeds, "let me repeat, that the restriction is, in the nature of the thing, impracticable, and the demand that we should observe it, is as improper as it is arrogant. Equally impertinent is it to ridicule us for retaining the use of genuine English words, because they happen to be obsolete in London, or in the higher circles of life. There are many instances in which we retain the genuine use of words, and the genuine English pronunciation, which they have corrupted; in pronunciation they have introduced more corruptions, within half a century, than were ever before introduced in five centuries, not even

excepting the periods of conquest. Many of these changes in England are attributable to false principles, introduced into popular elementary books written by mere sciolists in language, and diffused by the instrumentality of the stage. Let the English remove the beam from their own eye, before they attempt to pull the mote from ours; and before they laugh at our vulgar *keow, geown, neow,* let them discard their polite *keind,* and *geuide;* a fault precisely similar in origin, and equally a perversion of genuine English pronunciation." Brave and sensible words are these; their teaching may well be laid to heart to-day!

## III

Dr. Elwyn's "Glossary of Supposed Americanisms" was undertaken, as the preface informs us, "to show how much there yet remains, in this country, of language and customs directly brought from our remotest ancestry"—a purpose quite different from that of Mr. Pickering; but the chief value of the book is in the contribution it makes to our knowledge of Pennsylvania provincialisms, of which the author was evidently a careful observer. About four hundred and sixty words are included, of which a clear majority would be quite as little understood in decent American as in decent British society; but it seems that we have been accused of manufacturing the whole list, while the fact is that they are one and all of foreign origin.

The book is carelessly written, and not accurately alphabetized.

## IV

Schele de Vere's "Americanisms," a small octavo of something less than seven hundred pages, differs from the other works mentioned in not adopting the dictionary form, but presenting our verbal peculiarities as arranged in various classes—those invented by the Indian, the Dutchman, the Frenchman, the Spaniard, the German, the Negro, and the Chinaman; expressions peculiar to the West, to the church, to politics and to trade; marine and railroad terms; cant and slang; new words and nicknames, etc. The author has been accused of plagiarizing from Bartlett, and doubtless did avail himself freely of the labors of that lexicographer; but he added a good deal of original matter, and his book possesses an interest of its own. About four thousand items appear in the index.

## V

Bartlett's "Dictionary" (or, to give the full title, "Dictionary of Americanisms, a Glossary of Words and Phrases usually regarded as peculiar to the United States," by John Russell Bartlett) is, in its latest edition, a bulky octavo of over eight hundred pages, exceedingly well printed, and containing something above 5600 entries, but hardly representing, I

think, more than about 450 genuine and distinct Americanisms now in respectable use—less than one-twelfth of the whole number of articles. Of the remainder, nearly four hundred words and phrases are set down by the author himself as of British origin, some being used in this country in exactly the same manner as on their native soil, while others have been slightly altered in meaning, application or sound. At least 750 more are also certainly British, though Mr. Bartlett was not aware of it. The rest of the dictionary—say three quarters—is made up, partly of expressions never in general use, or long since antiquated; partly of mere mispronunciations, grammatical errors and unauthorized contractions; partly of vulgar slang; and partly of wearisome repetitions. Yet I by no means desire to be understood as setting down the work for a mass of rubbish. On the contrary, it contains a vast fund of interesting information, which any man devoted to the study of English dialects might well be proud to have brought together; and it is still indubitably, forty years after the last edition appeared, the standard work on the subject, for certainly neither Farmer nor Clapin could seriously be regarded as having displaced it, and Thornton and Mencken worked on an entirely different principle. Only it is a pity that the diligent compiler, in his anxiety to make a big book, allowed himself such extreme latitude in his conception of what constitutes an Americanism in speech, and con-

sequently buried his grains of wheat under so appalling a mountain of chaff.

It may be worth while to present some samples of the words that are improperly included in Bartlett's "Dictionary," as showing the way in which a tremendous number of pseudo-Americanisms have been, first and last, accumulated by people who find satisfaction in counting them up.

Of the 385 words and phrases that the author himself sets down as of British origin, the following examples may be mentioned:

To beat one *all-to-pieces,* or *all-to-smash; allow,* for assert; *argufy; awfully,* for very; *bail,* the handle of a bucket; *barm,* for yeast; *bound,* for determined or resolved; a *bull,* on the stock exchange; *bumptious,* for self-conceited; *can't come it; cap sheaf; cheek,* for impudence; *chowder; clip,* a blow, as "he hit him a clip"; to *collide;* to *cotton* to a man; *cracker,* for a small biscuit; *cute;* to *cut stick;* a *deck* of cards; *deputize; doxologize; dreadful,* for very, as "dreadful" fine; *every once in a while; fall* of the year; *first-rate; fix,* to put in order; *flapjack; flummux; freshet; gallivant; galoshes; given name; goodies;* to *gulp; hand-running; hard up; heft,* for weight; *help,* for servants; *homely,* not handsome; *hook,* to steal; *immigration; jeopardize; julep;* to *keep company;* to *loan; mad,* for angry; *mighty,* for very; *old fogy; over the left; pair* of stairs; *pled,* for pleaded; *pry,* a lever; to *pull up stakes;* to *reckon,* meaning to

think, believe or suppose; *reliable; rooster; no great shakes; sophomore; spell* of weather; *spry; spunk; starvation; stricken,* for struck; *sundown; swap;* to *take on; talented; teetotaller; ugly,* for ill-tempered; to *wallop,* and to *whale; whapper;* to *whittle,* and to *wilt.* In many cases no reason whatever is assigned for including these words in a list of Americanisms; very seldom is any better cause mentioned than that they are provincial or antiquated in Great Britain; and sometimes the pretext is of the most trivial character, as in the case of the word *whittle,* which is put in, forsooth, because both the verb and the practice are thought to be more common in America than in England! But the most surprising instance among this class of words has yet to be mentioned—the use of the adverb *"immediately,"* in place of the phrase "as soon as"—"the deer fell dead immediately they shot him." This wretched expression, Mr. Bartlett writes, is creeping into use from England. What possible sense there can be in counting as an Americanism a villainously ungrammatical construction which is "creeping into use in this country from England," it would puzzle Fitzedward Hall himself to explain.

The words and phrases erroneously (though in most cases very naturally) supposed by Mr. Bartlett to be peculiar to this country, appear in the list of "Exotic Americanisms" that constitutes the third chapter of this book. It would be unprofitable to detail exam-

ples of the mere errors, vulgar expressions and slang terms which he enumerates as distinctively American. A few instances of his ill-advised repetitions, enlarging the book to no possible good, may be mentioned:

"Bankit (French Banquette)" is defined as a sidewalk in Louisiana. Immediately below we have "banquette, the name for the sidewalk in some of our southern cities." "Bowie," and "bowie-knife" are separately entered. "Breakbone" is "a species of fever," and then follows "breakbone fever," with full definition. "Bulldoze" is "to intimidate," and on the next page we have "to bulldoze, to intimidate by violent means." A "filibuster" is a freebooter; "filibustering" is "freebooting"; and "to filibuster" is "to acquire by freebooting"; three separate entries. "A loafer" is an idle lounger, and "to loaf" is "to lounge." "To lynch," "lyncher" and "lynch law" are separately explained. "Muss," a corruption of "mess," is first elaborately defined as a noun, with examples, and then as a verb. A "pony" is a translation, and " to pony" is to use a translation. "To post" a person is to inform him, and then we are told that "posted" means informed. "To red up," meaning to set in order, is twice defined—once on page 517 and again on page 520. "To run" is "to cause to run," with the phrase "to run a church" as an example; and just below we find another entry—"to run a church," "to have the charge of a church." "To spin street yarn" (page 636) is "to go gadding about the

streets"; and on page 798, under the heading "street yarn," we learn that "to spin street yarn" is "to frequent the streets without any definite object." A "stove pipe" is a tall hat; and then follows a second entry, "stove pipe hat, a tall hat." A "suck in" is "a cheat," and "to suck in" is "to take in, to cheat." Many more instances might be mentioned; but it is hardly necessary to go further than this, in order to show how the book is filled up and expanded, without rhyme or reason. Mr. Bartlett would have done better to take pattern from Halliwell's admirable dictionary, a work that contains nearly ten times as many entries as the "Dictionary of Americanisms," but fills less than fifty more pages.

## VI

Mr. John S. Farmer's work, "Americanisms New and Old," is a "foolscap quarto" of about 590 pages, "privately printed" in what was intended to be a very ornamental (but is far from being a tasteful) style, elaborately bound, and sold, each copy signed and numbered, at a high price and to subscribers only—at least it went that way at first, and with the guarantee that this would be the "only complete edition," though I regret to say that a verbatim reprint, apparently from the original plates, appeared shortly after on the market in plainer binding, at a small fraction of the price that the subscribers paid. A striking feature

of the book is the vagueness of the author's ideas of American geography and history. He calls this country "the future mighty commonwealth of the southern seas"; counts Maine and Vermont among the original Thirteen; names "Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia"—these four only—as the Southern States; and with similar accuracy informs us that the "Midwestern States" are "W. Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas"; the Northwestern States, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska; the Pacific States, California, Nevada and Oregon; and that Pennsylvania is called "the mother of presidents." The last named statement is founded on a quotation from an American book, which Mr. Farmer misunderstood, as seems frequently to have occurred when he was preparing definitions. Perhaps the funniest case of such misunderstanding is under the word *jag*. Reading in the Albany Journal of a man who came in very late after an unsuccessful attempt to unlock the front door with his umbrella, and found himself next morning, "overcoat, hat, jag and all, stretched out in the bath tub," Mr. Farmer defines *jag* as "a slang term for an umbrella, possibly from that article being so constantly carried." Similarly, he explains *pink saucer* as "a special dye used in coloring tights," on the strength of having read in the New York World that an actress said she laundered her own flesh tights, coloring them with

what is called "pink saucer." Then Mr. Farmer copies some errors from Bartlett, such as "*freezer,* a refrigerator," "*handglasses,* spectacles," and "*hostiles,* enemies," to which might be added "*Maine law,*" of which term (as in the case of *hostiles*) Bartlett's definition is so incomplete as to be misleading. Of errors that appear to be original with Mr. Farmer may be mentioned: *Bellybender,* weak ice; *fractional currency,* nickel and copper coins; *jay,* the genus dude or masher; *paroled,* released or remanded on bail; *sack coat,* a tweed cloth coat; and *sarcophagus,* a leaden coffin. Elsewhere he informs us that the *Knights of Pythias* constitute an order of the same kind as the Knights of Labor, "similar to an English trade union"; that "*maybe* is invariably used for *perhaps*"; that "tickets of admission are commonly called *permits*"; that coins are said to be *plugged* when counterfeited; that *huckleberry* is "a kind of blackberry," and that "all berries are called plums in New England"; that the term *bulldoze* originally referred to "an association of negroes formed to insure, by violent and unlawful means, the success of an election"; that spelling bees originated in the Western States; that *bank bill* is "the name by which Bank of England notes are generally known throughout the States"; that "a cent piece" is "made of nickel"; that the word "*friends* is employed where in England the word *relations* would be used"; that "previous to 1878, greenbacks down to ten cents were current," and that

"greenbackers were those who, previous to the resumption of specie payment for the smaller amount just named, opposed the change." The book is in fact utterly useless as a source of information; no reliance can be placed on any statement made in its pages. Credit should nevertheless be given to Mr. Farmer for his entire freedom from the insular superciliousness that one might naturally expect to find him combining with his ignorance of the United States. He is studiously courteous as well as fair; and he goes out of his way to remark that "American English, taking the people all round, is much purer than the vernacular of the mother country." On the whole, therefore, and considering the fund of amusement that his "portentous catch-guinea" (as the New York Post called the book on its appearance) is certain to afford them, Americans have reason to be grateful to Mr. Farmer. Would that all our British critics possessed the same elementary qualification for discussing the peculiarities of the American language!

## VII

Col. Norton's "Political Americanisms" contains some 350 entries—among which it is a little surprising to find *boycott,* "an adaptation from the Irish Nationalists, with the same general meaning." An occasional slip—such as the statement that the term *half-breed* was "originally applied to certain Repub-

licans of New-York who *wavered in their party allegiance* during a bitter contest over the U. S. senatorship in 1881"—will be noted by the critical reader; but the work is on the whole remarkably well done, though it belongs of course to rather a different class from that of the general treatises on Americanisms, and hardly calls for extended review.

## VIII

Sylva Clapin's "New Dictionary of Americanisms" contains 5258 entries, of which number at least 750 are certainly expressions of British origin. Of the remainder, a large proportion are the names of things peculiar to America, or first introduced to notice here, and of these a large proportion are words of foreign language, words in many cases that no American would consider English. The rest of the book is largely transferred from Bartlett and Farmer, with an occasional clipping from Norton; and not a few of the errors of these compilers are adopted by Mr. Clapin without correction. In addition, he makes blunders enough of his own, some of them very odd. A *mudsill,* he tells us, originally denoted a timber "laid down to form a foundation for a railway track"; the *New Netherlands* is "the State of New York, through a grateful remembrance of its obligations to the Dutch"; a *pipe dream* is "an intensified form" of a slang phrase indicating, "in newspaper

parlance, an assignment which a reporter knows will fail"; to *place* a person is to "call to mind the place of his birth"; the word *push* "is in quite common use to characterize the followers of racing, base-ball, rowing, athletics, &c." If the promise of the preliminary circular, that "every page, before going to press, will pass through the hands of trained experts of the American Dialect Society" for criticism, was faithfully kept, it would appear that the trained experts, like Jupiter, occasionally nodded.

## IX

A work of very different character, different indeed from all the others, and the only one since Bartlett that is not founded on the labors of that diligent compiler, is Thornton's "American Glossary, an Attempt to Illustrate Certain Americanisms upon Historical Principles." Emphasis in the modest subtitle is to rest, not on the word *attempt,* considering that the author is decidedly successful in accomplishing his purpose, but on the word *certain,* for the book is by no means intended to give anything like a complete list of Americanisms, however one may be pleased to define that term, Prof. Thornton's plan having been to select expressions "of recognized standing or special interest" and trace their pedigree; "the reader who wishes to investigate such phrases as *Adam-and-Eve-on-a-Raft* or *get-a-wiggle-on* will

have to pursue his research elsewhere." In view of this limitation, it must be said that some of the entries in the book are a little surprising, such for instance as the *eagle from Harper's Ferry,* a *fast horse, fingers and toes, hanging shelf, Hartford Convention, higher law, not worth a row of pins, Ohioan,* to *ask no odds, pipe-laying, Wilmot proviso* and *wooden nutmegs.* These constitute, however, as do the perhaps 450 words of British origin, a very petty fraction of the entire number, this being about 3500, which are illustrated by no fewer than 14,000 citations, every one accurately dated. It is not strange that they are not very well balanced, regrettably few in some cases and rather unnecessarily multiplied in others. Perhaps 61 is not too many under *Yankee,* considering the importance of the word and the obscurity that surrounds its history; but one must wonder whether it was really worth while to give 33 for *half-horse-half-alligator.* The wonder, however, is that the compiler got so many together; and he writes me that he has gathered enough material for a third volume, the present work consisting of two. How he got it all I do not know; it is really a marvelous collection to be brought together by a single author; and it throws a flood of light on hundreds of points that were previously obscure. It reminds one in a way of Richardson's English dictionary, the first later than Johnson that was not founded on his labors, and the first to give "a collection of usages, and those usages explained to suit

the quotations." After somewhat careful study of Thornton, I have discovered only one single error, his defining *chunk* as "a worthless horse," and this is due to a not unnatural misunderstanding of the solitary case in which he noted the use of the word. The work is certainly of very high and quite unique value.

X

"The American Language, a Preliminary Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States," by H. L. Mencken, is a tall octavo of over 380 pages, planned much after De Vere, not a vocabulary but a work of history and review. After an interesting general introduction, the author sketches the beginnings of "American" and the period of its growth; considers the differences between British and American English today and the probable tendencies of "American"; adds some supplementary matter relating to proper names in this country, and American proverbial expressions and slang, concluding with a prophecy that American practice is likely to determine the final form of the language. A valuable bibliography is appended. The work is a mine of information, as may be inferred from the fact that the index of words and phrases noted contains over 5000 entries, and it is written (like De Vere's, which it quite eclipses and supersedes) in a readable style that entertains as well as instructs. Aside from a very few errors in fact,

really the only fault that the present writer finds with it is Mr. Mencken's rashness in making a good many general statements altogether too sweeping and universal. A few instances will show: "Lawn *fete*," he says, is "commonly pronounced *feet*"; "Americans almost invariably accent" the word *inquiry* on the first syllable; "We change the *ph* (*f*) sound to plain *p* in *diphtheria, diphthong* and *naphtha*"; "*Cog* still retains a pure *o*, but one seldom hears it in *log*"; "*Two sons-in-law* is never heard—one always hears two *son-in-laws*"; "In common speech, the word is always *deef*"; and, most amazing of all, this libel on the grammar of the United States: "Such phrases as 'I see nobody' or 'I know nothing about it' are heard so seldom that they appear to be affectations when encountered; the well-nigh universal forms are 'I don't see nobody' and 'I don't know nothing about it.'" Such statements are likely to be pounced upon by British writers as complete admissions by a leading American authority (for as such Mr. Mencken is sure to be recognized) of the distinct inferiority of our speech to that of Great Britain on points on which no such inferiority really exists among Americans as a whole, the blunders noted being either extremely vulgar or extremely local. Undoubtedly in his next edition (and it is to be hoped that several editions of this great work will be called for) Mr. Mencken will make a number of his statements less sweeping.

# CHAPTER THREE

## EXOTIC AMERICANISMS

"Every one knows an Americanism when he sees it."—*The King's English, Oxford,* 1906, *page* 25.

"Those whose pleasure it is to call America 'God's own country' tell us that they are the sole inheritors of the speech which Chaucer and Shakespeare adorned. It is their favorite boast that they have preserved the old language from extinction. They expend a vast deal of ingenuity in the fruitless attempt to prove that even their dialect has its roots deep down in the soil of classical English. And when their proofs are demanded they are indeed a sorry few. A vast edifice of mistaken pride has been established upon the insecure basis of three words—fall, gotten and bully."—*Charles Whibley, American Sketches, Edinburgh,* 1908, *page* 209.

This is a list of more than eleven hundred expressions supposed by Bartlett, Farmer, Clapin or Thornton to be peculiar to this country, with evidence (generally in the form of a quotation from a British writer) that most of them are certainly, and all of them probably, of foreign origin. "Evidence," I say, prima facie evidence, not conclusive proof, especially when the citation is of comparatively recent date; the term in question *may* be of American birth. However, the instance quoted is in every case the first

known occurrence in print of the word or phrase, and it would seem that that fact must be regarded as settling the matter until an earlier American citation can be given.

I am of course not unmindful of the contention of many English writers that an old English word, or use of a word, becomes an Americanism if it loses favor in Great Britain while retaining it in the United States—a position stoutly maintained by the Messrs. Fowler, compilers of the "Concise Oxford Dictionary," who insist, in the first chapter of their work on "The King's English," that "guess," "a favorite expression of Chaucer's, though good old English, is not good English," adding: "If we use the phrase—parenthetically, that is, like Chaucer and the Yankees—we have it, not from Chaucer, but from the Yankees," and therefore it is to be classed with Americanisms. It of course follows that if the Messrs. Fowler were compiling a glossary to Chaucer, they would have an entry something like this: "Guess, Americanism for believe, think, fancy." Similarly, if it were a glossary to Shakespeare, there would be an item: "Baggage, Americanism for luggage." And they must hold that a passage from the fourth chapter of Matthew ought to be printed in the English Bible after this fashion:

23. And Jesus went about all Galilee, (*a*) teaching in their synagogues, and preaching (*b*) the gospel of the kingdom, (*c*) and heal-

[a] Mark 1, 21.

[b] Or, *good tidings.*

[c] Mark 1, 34.

ing all manner of (*d*) sickness, and all manner of disease among the people.

24. And his fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought unto him all (*e*) sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were (*f*) possessed with devils, and epileptic, and palsied; and he healed them.

[d] Americanism for *illness.*

[e] Americanism for *ill.*

[f] Or, *demoniacs.*

Because, you see, there is only one alternative: A word, or a use of a word, must either (1) be, or else (2) not be, an Americanism. If it is fish in a Chicago newspaper, it cannot be flesh in a British book, especially one that everybody is supposed to know.

However, readers can judge for themselves. Here is the list with the evidence, "submitted," as the Declaration of Independence says, "to a candid world."

The utmost brevity has been sedulously observed, but not, it is hoped, at the sacrifice of clarity, though the numbers that appear after most of the quotations may need a word of explanation. They indicate as nearly as possible the position of the extract in the book or periodical. Thus "4.6.15" may be volume, chapter and page; or act, scene and line; or chapter, section and paragraph—the exact application depending of course on the nature and arrangement of the work quoted. The figures in parentheses give the year of publication.

By "Halliwell" is meant the Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words, by James Orchard Halli-

well, London, 1855; by "Davies," a Glossary Supplementary to Halliwell, by T. L. O. Davies, London, 1881; by "Jamieson," Jamieson's Dictionary of the Scottish Language, Edinburgh, 1808; by "Elwyn," Elwyn's Glossary of Supposed Americanisms, Philadelphia, 1859; by "Grose," Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue. When "Murray" is quoted, the reference is to that invaluable storehouse of knowledge, the badly-named "New English Dictionary," edited by Sir J. A. H. Murray and called "The Oxford Dictionary" on the temporary slip covers of the parts, though the latter title does not appear anywhere in the completed volumes. It is only proper to add that by no means all the citations that appear here and appear in Murray were taken by the present compiler from that great work, many of them having been noted by himself during thirty or forty years of (more or less intermittent) attention to the matter of collecting them.

## A

ACCORDING TO GUNTER.

As Gunter, inventor of surveying instruments, who died in 1626, was an Englishman, it is safe to say that this expression is of transatlantic origin.

ACCOUNT. "Of no account"—Of no value.

"That he his father in disdain hath taken and set at no account."—Gower, *Confessio Amantis*, 1.217 (1393).

"Are all these of no account?"—*Fordyce Sermons to Young Women* (1767).

ACCOUNTABILITY.

"Magistrates exposed to annual accountability."—*Crote, Greece* (1849).

ACTING—Performing temporarily the duties of.

"Trowbridge will tell you his opinion of the present acting captain of the San Josef."—*Nelson, Nicolas' Despatches,* 4.287 (1801).

ADDRESSEE.

"Of five thousand addressees, nine tenths declined to notice his letters."—*De Quincey, Works,* 6.328 (1858).

ADMIRE—1. To wonder at.

"I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints; and when I saw her I wondered with great admiration."—*Rev.* 17.10 (1611).

2. To like greatly (with an infinitive); "I should admire to go with you to Boston."

"A man of the Commonwealth period would readily understand much in the phraseology which now strikes an English ear as peculiar in these Eastern States. He would know what the genial host meant when he told him that he 'did admire' to see him eat."—*New Englander, July,* 1880, p. 430.

"Your rapt eyes would then admire to see him use his thighs in strength and swiftness."—*Chapman's Odyssey,* 17.418 (1615).

ADULTERER—One who adulterates.

"Usurers, cheats, coiners, and adulterers of wares."—*Urquhart, Rabelais,* 3.295 (1650).

AFFILIATE—Fraternize.

"The sharpers with whom I had been affiliated."—*Smollett, Gil Blas,* 1.1.71 (1761).

AFTERNIGHT—Evening.

Said by the Rev. Dr. John Hall, in the "New York Ledger," to be "common in Ulster."

AGEE—Askew.

"I wore my hat agee."—*A. Carlyle, Autobiography* (1800).

AIM—Intend.

"That rest that the king aimed to enjoy."—*Selden, Laws of England,* 2.26.116 (1649).

AIRY—Conceited.

"Airy saints, our hypocrites we mean."—*Warner, Albion's England* (1612).

"I will never deny myself honest solace for fear of airy censure."—*Feltham, Resolves,* 1.29 (1627).

ALARMIST.

"The panic of this alarmist is very great."—*Sydney Smith, Works,* 1.2 (1802).

ALCOHOLISM—Liquor habit.

"The valuable publication on chronic alcoholism by Magnus Huss."—*W. Marcet, Chron. Alc. Intox., Introduction* (1860).

ALIENAGE—Condition of an alien.

"Alienage is a plea in abatement, now seldom used."—*Tomlin's Law Dictionary, "Abatement"* (1809).

ALL-FIRED—Extremely.

"I be so all-fired jealous."—*Tom Brown at Oxford,* 40.446 (1861).

ALLEY—Kind of marble, child's plaything.

"A large bag of marbles and alleys."—*Defoe, Duncan Campbell* (1720).

ALLIGATOR—Large amphibian reptile, resembling the crocodile.

"Aligartos, which we call in English crocodiles."—*Purchas, Pilgrims* (1613).

"The crocodiles, now called Alegartos."—*Raleigh, History of the World* (1614).

ALLOW—Think or say.

Elwyn says this is "an old Sussex provincialism," and it is entered in Parish's Sussex Dictionary—"he allowed that it was too bad." It appears as an Isle-of-Wight peculiarity ("I 'lows we'd better go at once") in one of the "Original Glossaries" published by the English Dialect Society in 1881. Baret's "Alveary" (1580) defines: "Alowe, to declare to be true."

ALLSPICE—A condiment.

"Ambergrease, nutmegs and allspice."—*Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621).

ALMSHOUSE.

Defined in "Promptorium Parvulorum" (1440).

ALONG, in phrase "get along."

This very phrase, as well as "go along," is used by Mrs. Guppy in "Bleak House," chap. 64.

ALUMNUS.

The American use of this word as restricted

to a graduate, marks only a slight limitation of the meaning, a pupil, which was established in England as far back as the time of Evelyn, 1645.

AMENABILITY—State of being amenable. "Not in the English dictionaries," says Bartlett. It ought to be.

"The mysterious faculty of free-will and consequent personal amenability."—*Coleridge, The Friend* (1810).

AMPERSAND or ANDPERSAND—The character & representing the conjunction *and*.

Halliwell says: "The expression is, or rather was, common in our nursery books. In Hampshire it is pronounced amperzed, and very often amperse-and. An early instance of its use is quoted in Strutt's 'Sports and Pastimes,' p. 399." Strutt published in 1801.

ANNUNCIATOR.

"Annunciator, an officer whose business it was to give notice of the feasts."—*Chambers' Cyclopedia, Supplement* (1753).

ANTAGONIZE—Excite the antagonism of.

"Doing this work antagonizes certain people."—*Echo, Feb.* 20, 1882.

ANY—At all; "people speak of not being angry any" —so Farmer.

"You are not to go loose any longer."—*Merry Wives of Windsor,* 4.2.128 (1598).

APPELLATE—Relating to appeals.

"The Earls of Derby exercising appellate jurisdiction." —*Blackstone, Commentaries,* 1.105 (1768).

APPLECART. To upset one's applecart—to get into trouble.

Halliwell says that "down with his applecart" is a provincialism in the north of England, meaning "knock him down."

APPOINTABLE—That may be appointed.

"Rites and ceremonies appointable by superior powers." —*Fox, Acts of the Church* (1562).

ARGUFY—To argue or to signify.

Halliwell says this word in the sense of *argue* occurs in various dialects of England, and adds that he believes he has heard it used in the sense to signify. He certainly might have read it, used in that sense:

"I've done," she muttered; "I was saying
It did not argufy my playing.
Some folks will win, they cannot choose,
But think or not think, some must lose."
*William Shenstone* (1737–'63), *To a Friend.*

ASININITY.

"Ears beyond the usual dimensions of asininity asinine." —*Frazer's Magazine, August,* 1831.

ASSIGN—To sign.

Murray gives a citation of 1563.

AT superfluous after *where.*

"Where did I break off at?"—*Browning, Clive* (1883).

A-TREMBLE—Quivering.

"My hands a-tremble as I had just caught up my heart to write with, in the plan of it."—*Aurora Leigh, Book* 6 (1856).

ATTITUDINIZE—To "strike an attitude," to pose.

"He called once to a gentleman who offended him in that point, 'Don't attitudinize.' "—*Boswell's Johnson,* 5.220 (1784).

AUTHORESS.

Murray traces this silly word back in its present form to 1718, and in various other spellings to 1494.

AVAILS—Proceeds of a sale.

Used by Bishop Pecock, in "Repressor of Overmuch Blaming," 392 (1449).

## B

BACK AND FORTH.

"He would go back and fore along the rope."—*Sir Thos. Urquhart, Rabelais,* 1.23 (1653).

"Young girls dance over the candle back and forth."—*Camden Society, Early English History* (1836).

BACK OUT.

"Johnson was determined that Morris should not back out of the scrape."—*Scott, Rob Roy,* b (1818).

BACKWARD—Bashful.

"The females were nothing backwarder in beholding."—*Swift, Tale of a Tub* (1704).

BAD—Much.

"Haunted almost as bad as Mompesson's house."—*Jos. Glanvill, Sadducimus* (1681).

BAGGAGE—Called now in Great Britain luggage.

"To get him baggage, put himself in press."—*Political, Religious and Love Poems* (*circ.* 1430).

"Was left not one, horse, male, trusse, no baggage."—*Chaucer, Dream* (*circ.* 1450).

"It will let in and out the enemy with bag and baggage."—*Winter's Tale,* 1.2 (1611).

"Mrs. Arnold offered to send for my son's baggage."—*Vicar of Wakefield,* 20 (1766).

"With bag and baggage thus did Dido once decamp."—*Browning, Ring and Book, Bottinius* (1869).

BAIL—Handle of a bucket.

Said in Forby's Glossary to be provincial in Norfolk, and in Halliwell to be peculiar to the east of England. According to Murray it meant originally "a hoop or ring, a half-hoop for supporting the cover of a wagon or cradle," and dates back in this significance, practically the same as the "American" usage, to 1447.

BAITING—An informal luncheon.

"Beyting of horse, pabulacio."—*Promptorium Parvulorum.*

"Never themselves refreshing, except the bayting of their horses."—*Sir Thos. More, King Edward* V (1513).

"Travellers that have benighted themselves by their baitings."—*Hartlib, Commonwealth of Bees* (1655).

BALK—Refuse to move, as a horse.

"If he balked, I knew I was undone."—*Defoe, Moll Flanders* (1721).

BAM—To cheat.

Certainly dates back to Cibber's "Double Gallant," 1707, and is defined in the 5th edition of "Dyche's Dictionary," 1748.

BANANA.

Seems to be West African word. Used by Garcia ab Horto, "Plants and Drugs of India" (1563).

BANG UP—Remarkably fine.

"A bang-up theatrical cotillion."—*Smith, Rejected Addresses* (1812).

BANJO—A musical instrument.

Said to be an African corruption of a word from Southern Europe. First known instance of its use is in "The Negro and his Banjer," title of one of Charles Dibdin's "Sea Songs," circ. 1790. As "banjore," it is explained in Maria Edgeworth's "Belinda," 2.18.7 (1801).

BANQUETTE—Sidewalk, in some southern cities.

Simply an importation from France, heard only in regions once largely populated by Frenchmen. Does a European word, used—without change in spelling, pronunciation or meaning—in a restricted section of the United States, become an Americanism because it is not familiar to British ears?

BARBECUE.

"Let's Barbicu this fat rogue."—*Mrs. Behn, Widow Ranter*, 2.4.356 (1690).

BARK A TREE.

"If any person unlawfully bark any apple trees."—*Act 37 of Henry VIII* (1545).

BARRENS—Barren tracts of land.

Merely a natural and simple contraction. The adjective barren has been applied to land, in England as in the United States, for certainly more than five hundred years.

BASEBALL.

The modern *game* is an American invention, no doubt; but the *term* occurs on p. 238 of Moor's "Suffolk Words and Phrases," 1823, where it is used in describing a country game.

BASILAR—At the base.

"The seventh bone is the bone basylare."—*Copeland, medical treatise* (1541).

BAT—To strike.

"Mariners, who with their spirits, poles and oars beat and batt their carcasses."—*Philemon Holland, Suetonius* (1606).

BEAR—To endeavor to depress the value of property.

Murray says this term, applied to stock, appeared early in the 18th century, "and was common at the time of the South Sea Bubble."

BEARD of shelfish.

"These threads, termed the beard of the mussel."—*Goldsmith, Natural History,* 2.4.6 (1774).

BEAU—A lover.

"Her country beaux and city cousins, lovers no more, flew off by dozens."—*Goldsmith, Double Transformation* (1777).

BEAVER DAM—Barrier in stream, erected by beavers.

"The beavers gnaw down trees, wherewith they make beaver dams."—*Philosophical Transactions,* 11.626 (1676).

BEDROCK—Solid rock, underlying looser strata.

"The richest ground is usually found in contact with bedrock."—*Encyclopedia Britannica,* 10.745 (1879).

BEEF—An ox.

So defined by Halliwell, who adds: "Beefet, Young Ox."

"More than 20,000 beasts, swine, beufes, kene and moutons."—*Berner's Froissart, 1st,* 393.675 (1523).

"The pygargue, the wild beef."—*Douay Bible, Deut.* 14.5 (1609).

BEING—Because.

Noted by Halliwell as occurring in "various dialects."

"You loiter here too long, being that you are to take soldiers up."—*Henry IV, 2d Part,* 2.1.199 (1597).

BELIKED—Admired.

"Those that are beloved and beliked of princes."—*Sir Thos. North, Guevara* (1557).

BELONGINGS—Personal possessions.

"Jewels, liveries and such other belongings of wealthy people."—*John Ruskin* (1857).

BENDER—A spree.

Said (by a writer in Blackwood, October, 1867, p. 403) "to have been originally introduced by the Scotch." The word is defined as "a hard drinker" in Jamieson.

BEST—To defeat.

"I cannot stand quiet and see the Dissenters best the establishment."—*Trafford, World in Church* (1863).

BIDDY—Hen.

Occurs in "Twelfth Night," 3.4.128 (1601).

BILBERRY.

"There pinch the maids as blue as bilberry."—*Merry Wives of Windsor*, 5.5 (1598).

BILE—Boil.

The old Anglo-Saxon word, "still used," says Halliwell, "in the provincial dialects."

BILING—"The whole bilin' of 'em."

Possibly of American origin; but Dickens makes a London lodging-house keeper use it, "On Duty with Inspector Field."

BILK—An especially contemptible cheat.

"Johnny Wilks, thou greatest of bilks."—*Sheridaniana* (1790).

"The wagoner drove off, cursing him for a bilk."—*Marryat, Japhet*, 9 (1836).

BILLY—A weapon.

The earliest known appearance of this term is in the London Times of April 28, 1865.

BINDWEED.

"Convolvulus is called in English byndeweede."—*Turner, Names of Herbs* (1548).

BLACKBERRY.

This word, exactly as used by Americans, "has been in constant use in England," according to

Richard Grant White (Galaxy, Jan. 1, 1879), "from the days of King Alfred."

BLACKLEG—A disease of cattle.

"They have a distemper in Leicestershire which they call blacklegs."—*Lisle, Husbandry,* 347 (1722).

BLACKLIST—Catalog of discredited persons.

Occurs in a translation, published 1692, of Milton's *Defensio pro Populo.*

BLACKY—Negro.

Used by Moore (1815), Thackeray (1854), and the Athenaeum. Seldom if ever heard, I think, in the United States.

BLATANCY.

"Who can be secured from base carping blatancie?"—*Folkingham, Art of Survey* (1610).

BLOTTER—Book for temporary notes.

Defined in Craig's Dictionary, 1849.

BLOW—To boast or brag.

"Not blowing everywhere all that I know."—*Chaucer, Court of Love, 14th Century.*

"He brags and he blaws of his siller."—*Burns, Tom Glen* (1789).

BLOWOUT—An ambitious entertainment.

"She sent me a card for her blowout."—*Scott, St. Ronan's Well,* 33 (1832).

BLUE BLOOD—High breeding.

"One of high rank and birth, of the blue blood."—*Miss Edgeworth, Helen,* 15 (1834).

BLUE BOOK—An official list or report.

"The second, called the blue book, begins with the first year of Queen Mary."—*Ashmole, Order of Garter,* 6.155 (1715).

BLUEFISH.

Murray gives citation from Philosophical Transactions of 1734.

BLUFF—Steep river bank.

Defined in Latham's "Johnson" as "a high bank, generally overlooking the sea."

BLUR-EYED—Blear-eyed.

Murray gives, as one definition of the verb *blur,* "to dim the sight or other senses," with a quotation of 1620.

BONES—Castanets.

"Wilt thou hear music? Let us have the bones."—*Midsummer Night,* 4.1 (1590).

BOOHOO.

Used by Skelton, 1525.

BOTTOM—Endurance.

"The savages held out and had better bottoms."—*Goldsmith, Animated Nature,* 2.106 (1774).

BOTTOMS—Rich lowlands.

Occurs repeatedly, chaps. 1, 5, 7 and 27, in Gaskell's "Life of Charlotte Bronte" (1857). She calls it a Yorkshire provincialism.

BOUND—Determined.

"They are bound that they shall not diminish but in-

crease all things."—*Tyndale, Prologues to Five Books, 15th Century.*

BOWLING ALLEY.

Murray gives a British citation of 1555.

BRAINY—Having an active mind.

Used by Leigh Hunt, "Correspondence," 2.104, Letter to R. Bell (1845).

BRICKLY—Brittle.

"Brickle," in the same significance, occurs twice in the original Douay Bible, though printed "brittle" in modern editions.

BRIEF—A legal paper.

In use in England, though at first in a sense slightly different from ours, since the 13th Century.

BRIGHT—Intelligent.

"I would rather be in his company than that of the brightest man I know."—*Steele, Tatler, No.* 208 (1710).

BRING UP—Stop.

"I was all at once brought up by an invisible fence."—*Blackwood's Magazine,* 8.317 (1820).

BROWN in phrase "to do a thing up brown."

"He'll come out done so exceedin' brown that his friends won't know him."—*Pickwick Papers,* 43 (1837).

BRUISER—Ruffian.

"He let into the pit great numbers of bear-garden bruisers to knock down everybody that hissed."—*Horace Walpole, Letters to Mann,* 2.116.6 (1744).

BRUMMAGEN—Worthless.

Anybody might see that this variant of sundry old English forms could not be an Americanism.

"To hear hardened Brumicham rascals prate."—*D'Urfey, Sir Barnaby Whig* (1681).

"I coined heroes as fast as Brumingham groats."—*Rev. Thos. Browne, chaplain to Charles I* (1688).

"That peculiar taste which is vulgarly called Brummagem."—*Bulwer, My Novel,* 3 (1853).

BUCK—1. To butt, as a goat.

"Many of these kickers are very prone to buck other cows."—*Britten, Old Country Words* (1750).

2. To spring suddenly from the ground, as a horse.

"That same bucking puzzles me."—*Henry Kingsley, Geoffrey Hamlyn* (1859).

BUCKLE—To bend, generally referring to metal.

"Ninepences are a little buckled, to distinguish in their currency."—*Thoms' Anecdotes,* 54 (1525).

BUG—Coleopterous insect of any kind.

"God's rare workmanship in the poorest bug that creeps."—*Rogers, Naaman the Syrian* (1642).

"Blatta, A shorn bug."—*Ainsworth's Latin Dictionary* (1783).

"May beetle, also called May bug."—*Halliwell.*

BUGABOO—Imaginary terror; hobgoblin.

"Bugibu," as a proper name for such a creature, occurs in a French poem of the 12th Century, given in *Ancien Poetes de la France.*

BULLY—Excellent.

"From such bully fishers this book expects no other reception."—*Chetham, Angler's Vademecum* (1681).

"Here, bully mates."—*Hood, Lamia* (1852).

"Lady Dufferin, bully for her."—*Punch, July* 28, 1883.

BUNK—Berth.

"I should represent Charles as falling down the companion ladder, and pass over the rest of his voyage by saying that he was confined to his bunk."—*Henry Kingsley, Ravenshoe.*

BUREAU—Chest of drawers.

So defined in Walker's Dictionary, 1805.

BURRO—Donkey.

Frequent in Southey, dating back to 1800.

BUST—Burst.

Halliwell has an entry, "Busted, burst, western."

BUZZ—To talk.

"Having buzzed his venomous suggestions into their ears."—*Stubbs, Anatomy of Abuses,* 36 (1583).

BUZZER—A pickpocket.

"To give them opportunity of working upon the prig and buz, that is, picking of pockets."—*Geo. Parker, Life's Painter* (1789).

BY AND LARGE.

"They soon find out one another's rate of sailing by and large."—*Fraser's Magazine,* 8.158 (1833).

## C

CABOOSE—Conductor's shelter on freight train.

Defined in Falconer's Marine Dictionary, 1769, as a "a box or house to cover the chimney of some merchant ships." Our use of the word is merely an extension of this.

CACHE—Hiding place for valuables.

"The inhabitants, having intelligence of our coming, hid their treasure in casshes."—*Drake's Voyages* (1595).

CADE—A calf, a pet—so Bartlett.

"It's ill bringin' up a cade lamb."—*Adam Bede, Chap.* 10.

CADEAU—A gift.

Bartlett cites a single instance of this Gallicism from a New York daily paper of 1861. It appeared in the "Ingoldsby Legends" some fifteen years earlier.

CALABOOSE—Jail.

"(He threatened me) with the horrors of the callibouse if I disputed his authority."—*Fra Baily, Journal of Tour,* 289 (1797).

CALABASH—Gourd.

"He called for his calabaza or gourds of the gold beads."—*Raleigh, Guiana* (1596).

CALASH—1. Light carriage.

"The pope taking the air in a rich caleche."—*London Gazette,* 104 (1666).

2. Woman's head dress.

"Give no ticket to any that wear calashes."—*Wesley's Works* (1791).

CALCULATE—To believe, think, suppose.

"He has brought you a Fox's Book of Martyrs, which I calculate will go in the parcel today."—*Thos. Carlyle, New Letters.*

CALLOUSED—Hardened.

"The English mind calloused against its effects."—*Fraser's Magazine,* 10.658 (1834).

CANDIDATE used as a verb.

Considering that any English noun may be so used, this could not properly be called an Americanism, even though it were true that it first appeared in this country, which is not the case. Murray gives citation from "Feltham's Resolves," 1628, more than 250 years earlier than the first known American instance.

CANDIDATESHIP.

Is in Perry's Dictionary, 1775.

CANDLELIGHTING—Early evening.

"She and I, it being candlelight, bought meat for tomorrow."—*Pepys' Diary, Aug.* 29, 1663.

CANTALOUPE—Kind of melon.

Mentioned in Penny Cyclopedia, 15.86 (1839).

CANT HOOK—Lever for canting.

Is in Halliwell, marked "northern," but defined as meaning a finger. "Cant, to set up on

edge," is in the same dictionary, marked "eastern."

CANVASS—Official count of votes.

Seems to be practically the same sense, that of deliberate examination, in which the word was used by Bishop Hall in his "Epistles," 5.4.369 (1608).

CAP in phrase "to cap all," to cap the climax, break the record.

According to a writer in the New England Magazine, October, 1888, p. 590, "that caps me" is an old Yorkshire expression. "That caps the globe" occurs in "Jane Eyre," chap. 32.

CAR on a railroad.

There is really nothing American in calling these vehicles by this name. The word is universally applied in England to those of street railroads, though when the conveyance is drawn across the country by steam, the British prefer to speak of it as a carriage or a coach.

CARF—Cut into a tree or piece of timber.

Used in England from time immemorial, though in various spellings—cyrf (1000), kyrf (1340), kerfe (1393), carffe (1400), carfe (1559); and defined, with the present orthography, by Halliwell and Jamieson.

CARMAN—Driver of a cart.

"Serve in Thames Street in a civil war against the car-

men."—*Ben Jonson, Every Man in His Humor,* 3.2 (1598).

CAROM in billiards.

The present British name, cannon, is simply a modern corruption. The 1779 edition of "Hoyle's Games" describes the stroke as being "called a carambole, or for shortness a carrom."

CARRY AWAY—To move to ecstasy.

"This ravished or carried me away, whether I would or no."—*Huloet* (1570).

CARRY ON—To frolic, act boisterously.

"How Lady Carmine's daughter is carrying on with young Thriftless."—*Whyte Melville, Kate Coventry* (1856).

CAST—Hue; tinge of color.

"A robe of a yellowish cast."—*Spectator,* 425.5 (1712).

CATAMOUNT.

"A cat-of-mount which came out of the forest of Orleans did infinitely endamage the county of Berry."—*World of Wonders, London,* 1607, *p.* 9.

CATCH—Quantity of fish taken at once.

"The expense of fishing must be paid, after which the benefit of the catch is supposing to accrue to the proprietors."—*Robertson, Agriculture of Perth* (1799).

CATCH a train—Be in time for it.

Merely one application of a very old use of the verb, Disraeli's use of it in "Vivian Grey" (1826): "I was afraid my note might not have caught you."

CATECHISE as a noun.

"The articles, creeds, homilies, catechise, liturgy."—*Gauden, Tears of the Church* (1659).

CATFISH.

Murray gives British citations as early as 1620.

CAUTION—"Example, usually in a ludicrous sense"—so Thornton.

Obviously only a rather special use of an old English term. Thornton's first example has the sense of warning, in which sense the word is defined in Cockeram's Dictionary, 1523.

CAVE—To cave in, physically or figuratively.

Halliwell credits this expression to various dialects. It occurs in Chap. 28 of Kingsley's Geoffrey Hamlyn, 1859.

CERTAIN—Certainly.

"Else certain had they been to blame."—*Canterbury Tales, Prologue* (1386).

CHAINED LIGHTNING.

"Lightning, chained or forked, was visible."—*All the Year Round,* 17 (1859).

CHANCE—To risk.

"Oh, chance the towels; we can run about till we're dry."—*Canon Farrar, Eric* (1859).

CHECK for baggage.

The word has long been used in England as a token in evidence of ownership.

CHEESE—Best thing of its kind, as in phrase, "That's the cheese."

Occurs, according to the English Slang Dictionary, in the London Guide of 1818.

CHESS—Weed infesting wheatfields.

Murray gives citation from "W. Ellis, New Experiments," 1836.

CHIPPER—Lively.

Defined in Dictionary of Isle of Wight dialects; and an English friend tells me the word in this sense was familiar to him in his boyhood in Leicestershire.

CHIRK—Lively.

"This word," says the London Daily News, in an article reprinted in the New York World of July 12, 1893, "is used by Swinburne in 'The Masque of Queen Bersabe, and no doubt he has old authority." The word, the writer adds, is "not American at all, but English."

CHISEL—To cheat.

Jamieson has this entry, though the spelling is chizzel.

CHOCK FULL.

"He is drunk, top-heavy, chock full."—*Gentleman's Magazine, December,* 1770.

CHOKE OFF—Put quietus on a speaker.

"The duke's seven mouths made the Whig party choak off Sheridan."—*Cobbett, Political Register* (1818).

CHOKER—Cravat.

"A sham frill and a white choker."—*Book of Snobs,* 1 (1848).

CHOP—Quality, as in phrase "first chop."

"I must make up my table with literary men and second chop."—*Buckingham, Court of George IV* (1823).

CHORE—Small piece of work.

So defined in a number of vocabularies of British dialects; seems to be very old.

CHUCKLEHEAD—Stupid fellow.

Defined by Bailey, 1731.

CHUTE—Steep channel, with or without water.

Mixture of sense of English *shoot* and French *chute.* Spelled *shoot* in Defoe's "Voyage round the World," 287 (1725), *shute* in Parsons "Travels in Asia," 11.241 (1808). Earliest recorded use of *chute* as an English word is, however, American—"Evangeline," 2.2.15 (1847).

CIVISM—Love of country.

"A term of the French Revolution," says Murray.

CLEARING-HOUSE.

The London institution so-called antedates by many years any in America.

CLEVEL—Grain of corn or wheat.

"They set their millstone so high that it breaks off only the tops of the clevel."—*Bradley's Family Dictionary, s. v. Brewing* (1727).

CLEVER—Good natured.

Not in good use in the United States, and not an American perversion. Defined by Halliwell as a south-of-England provincialism. Occurs in "She Stoops to Conquer," 1.2 (1773).

CLEVIS—U-shaped piece of iron, for various purposes.

"My best pair of clevis, my best plow."—*Lancashire and Cheshire Wills*, 3.39 (1592).

CLIMB DOWN.

Occurs in Cursor Mundi (1320).

CLINKER-BUILT.

"A flat-bottomed, clinker-built pram."—*Falconer, Marine Dictionary* (1769).

CLOUD—A woman's garment.

Farmer appears to think this word of American invention, as he includes it in his list, though remarking that it is "as well known in England as in the States." It occurs in an English novel, "Blotted Out," 1.6 (1877); and seems to be probably of British origin.

COACH—Trainer; instructor in athletics.

Earliest known use in Clough's "Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich," 113 (1848).

COACHWHIP—Kind of snake.

Described under that name in Philosophical Transactions, 39.256 (1736).

COCKY—Conceited.

"I think I may be cocky since fortune has smurtled on me."—*Rose, Helenore,* 150 (1768).

COLLAR.

The phrase, to wear somebody's collar, *i. e.*, to take orders from him, may possibly have been first used in the United States, though it seems very improbable that it was; and even if that is the case, it is a simple and self-explanatory metaphor rather than any sort of an ism. An Englishman hearing it for the first time could not fail to understand it if he had ever read the first chapter of "Ivanhoe."

COLLARETTE.

"A scarf beset with a great lace, a colleret."—*Evelyn, Mundus Muliebris* (1690).

COLLATERAL—Security.

The only Americanism is in using the adjective as a noun. The expression "colaterall sureties" occurs in the 26th Act of "Henry VIII" (1534).

COMB—A hill.

Jamieson defines *kaim* as meaning *comb* and says it denotes "the crest of a hill or those pinnacles which resemble a cock's comb."

COMBINE—Combination.

Ugly newspaper slang, but as old in England as 1610, when the word was so used in Folkingham's Art Survey.

COME OUT—Make one's first appearance in formal society.

"She has never been presented yet, so she is not come out, you know; but she's to come out next year."—*Mme. D'Arblay, Cecilia,* 6.2 (1782).

COME OVER—To delude.

"Yellowley had been come over by a Scottish earl."—*Pirate,* 4 (1822).

COMMANDER—A beetle.

So defined in Baret's "Alveary," 1573.

COMMENCEMENT—Closing exercises of college year.

So used in England as long ago as 1387.

COMMONS—Meals taken together by students.

"The priests had a college, a commons, lodging and mansions during their service."—*Bishop Montagu* (1641).

COMMUNE—Participate in the Lord's Supper.

So used by Wyclif in 1380; see his "Selected Works," 3.357.

COMPARE intransitive—"This does not compare with that." Murray traces this locution back to 1450.

COMPROMIT—Compromise.

"Westmoreland and Plompton have compromitted them to stand to the award."—*Plompton Correspondence,* 51 (1441).

CONFECTIONER—Pastry cook.

Percival's Spanish Dictionary, 1591, so translates the old Spanish word *conficianador,* now *confeccionador.*

CONNECTION in phrase "in this connection."

"The same argument stated in the same connection."—*Hazlitt, Political Essays* (1807).

CONSEQUENTIOUS.

"The matter was not consequentious."—*Sir Thos. Herbert, Travels* (1634).

CONSOCIATE.

"The band that doth consociate the parents toward their children."—*Painter, Palace of Pleasure,* 1.80 (1566).

CONSOCIATION.

"We must find that consociation in the Gospel."—*Bilson, Government of Church* (1593).

CONSTITUTIONALITY.

"Solely on the ground of constitutionality."—*Annual Register* (1801).

CONTEMPLATE—To intend.

"Evidence that her usurper had ever contemplated to make her beautiful."—*Lord Broughton, Letters* (1816).

CONTINUANCE—Adjournment of legal proceedings.

"John hath ceased of his suit, taking continuance of the same unto Christians."—*Paston Letters,* 5.1.21 (1425).

CONTRAPTION.

Said by Halliwell to be a West-of-England word.

CONTRIVE followed by a noun—Make, do, accomplish, plan.

Murray has citations from the 14th Century.

COOK (an account)—Falsify.

"Some falsified accounts, artfully cooked up."—*Peregrine Pickle* (1751).

COOKEY.

"'Cookie' in the ears of a Scotchman is familiar as the name of a light tea cake."—*J. F. W. Johnston (of the University of Durham), North America,* 23.296 (1850).

COPSE—A small thicket.

"Agrimonie groweth in hedges and copses."—*Lyte, Dodoens,* 1.39.57 (1578).

CORKED—Tasting of the cork.

"This wine is corked."—*Marryat, King's Own,* 34 (1830).

COUNT—Reckon, suppose, think, intend.

No American (colloquial) use of this word is anything more than a slight extension or variation of sense in which it has been heard in Great Britain for centuries.

COUNTERJUMPER—Clerk in retail store.

"I'm only a tallow-faced counterjumper."—*Warren, Ten Thousand a Year,* 1.1.3 (1841).

COVE—Strip of prairie extending into woodland.

Merely a special application of an old British term.

COVERLID—Coverlet.

Used in England in various spellings—coverlyd, couerled, coverled, coverlaid and the like, as well as coverlid—from the 15th Century.

COWHIDE—Whip.

"He got his skin well cowhided by Charles XII."—*Carlyle, Miscellanies,* 4.356 (1832).

CRACK and CRACKSMAN.

Bartlett defines these words as relating to fraud by forgery and similar methods, which I think a mistake, believing them to refer to direct robbery, in which sense they are at least as old in England as 1725 and 1812 respectively.

CRACKER—Small biscuit.

So defined in Halliwell. Used in this sense in the British Naval Chronicle, 24.459 (1810), and by De Quincey in "Speculations" (1847).

CRADLE SCYTHE—"A scythe with frame to lay the corn smooth in cutting."

So defined in Halliwell.

CRAM—To study hard, especially in preparing for examination.

"An uninstructed man when crammed for an occasion."—*Fonblanque, Westminster Review,* 4.394 (1825).

CRANKY—1. Unsteady.

"The boat is very cranky."—*And. Wynter, Social Bees,* 358 (1861).

2. Queer, crochetty.

"A cranky old brute of a hut keeper."—*Henry Kingsley, Geoffrey Hamlyn,* 27 (1859).

CREEPER—Shallow iron dish.

"I can no better compare you than with the brass and irons, and us ministers to the low creepers."—*Rome for Canterbury, Harleiian Miscellanies,* 4.379 (1641).

CREVASSE—Break in river bank.

An old French word adopted into English at

least as early as the time of Chaucer, who wrote "House of Fame," 3.8.167): "It gave outcreep at some crevasse."

CRIB—1. Structure of timber; part of a raft.

Both senses clearly extensions of the original meaning of the word, a barred receptacle.

2. A translation, surreptitiously used.

"I could translate it through the medium of a Latin version, technically called a crib."—*Bulwer, Pelham*, 1.2.2 (1827).

CRISSCROSS.

"To criscross the letter."—*Keats, Life and Letters*, 1.112 (1818).

CRUEL—Very.

A Devonshire correspondent of the London Times says this use of the word is very common in his county. The West Somerset Word Book gives the definition, with example: "Cruel good to poor volks." Did the reader ever hear an American use the word in the sense of very?

CRUSH (hat)—Soft.

See "Nicholas Nickleby," 19 (1838) and "Book of Snobs," 1 (1848).

CULL—"In New Jersey, to assort, in speaking of oysters"—so Clapin.

The word is not confined to New Jersey, or to oysters, but generally used as meaning to pick out inferior specimens of anything, exactly as it has

been used in England for five or six hundred years.

CULTIVATE—To use a cultivator.

"The stubble was 'cultivated' and sown."—*Journal Royal Agricultural Society*, 7.2.288 (1846).

CUNNING—Neat and pretty; tiny.

"A man of the Commonwealth would 'sit a spell' with his hostess and compliment her baby on looking 'cunning.'"—*Pattison, New Englander, July*, 1880, *p.* 430.

CURIOUS—Excellent.

Murray gives British citations of the 17th Century and some not quite so certain back to the 15th. "Curious old wine," meaning very fine old wine, is a British trade expression of unknown antiquity.

CUSS—Curse.

Said by Elwyn to be an Essex provincialism.

CUSTOMABLE—Liable to duty; "dutiable."

Occurs, according to Thynne's "Animadversions," in an oath taken by the Comptroller of the Customs in 1529.

CUSTOMER—Person.

"Such a country customer I did not meet with once."—*Peter Heylin, Cosmographie, preface* (1652).

CUTENESS.

"Who could have thought so innocent a face could cover so much cuteness?"—*Goldsmith, Goodnatured Man*, 2.1 (1768).

CUT UP—Distressed.

"Scrooge was not so dreadfully cut up by the sad event."—*Christmas Carol,* 1 (1844).

"Poor fellow! He seems dreadfully cut up."—*Tom Brown at Oxford,* 32 (1861).

## D

DADDOCK—Body of a rotten tree.

"How long would it be before you could make a piece of dadocke wood to flame?"—*Bishop Smith, Sermons,* 136 (1624).

DADDY LONGLEGS—An arachnid.

"These insects are well known under the names of daddylonglegs, &c."—*Westwood, Cuvier's Animal Kingdom,* 619 (1840).

DANDIFIED.

"He was dressed in the most dandified style."—*Vivian Grey,* 4.1 (1826).

DARNATION—Damnation.

Is in Moor's Suffolk Glossary.

DEAD—Word of strong emphasis in various compounds; "I'm dead sure of it."

"I had them a dead bargain."—*Vicar of Wakefield,* 12 (1766).

DEAD BEAT—Exhausted.

"So dead beat as to be compelled to cry for quarter."—*Pierce Egan, Tom and Jerry* (1821).

DEAD SET—Resolute purpose or its result; complete check.

"The Duchess of Drinkwater at a dead set!"—*Surr, Winter in London,* 3.211 (1806).

DEAL—Transaction.

"You love a secret deal."—*Willobie,* 19 (1594).

DEMEAN—Humble, debase.

A blunder as old in England as 1601, date of publication of Abbot's "Kingdom of Christ," which speaks of the Saviour's being "far demeaned beneath all kingly state."

DEMONSTRATE—Show one's self.

"The Spanish army has been so long allowed to demonstrate on the Portuguese frontier."—*Examiner,* 297.1 (1827).

DEPOT—Railroad station.

"When there are warehouses attached to a station, the whole is called a depot."—*Wishaw, Railways,* 286 (1837).

DERAIL—To throw off the track.

"The last carriage of the express train was derailed."—*Lardner, Railroad Economy,* 327 (1850).

DERRICK—Crane.

Described under that name in "Rigging and Seamanship," 1.165 (1794).

DESK—Pulpit.

Murray gives British citations of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries.

DESPISEMENT—Scorn.

"Contempt and despisement of worldly wealth."—*Holland, Plutarch's Morals,* 155 (1603).

DETAIL—"A marking or telling off for any given purpose"—so Farmer.

Merely a broader use of a term familiar in Great Britain in military matters since 1700 or earlier.

DETRAIN—Leave, or cause to leave, a train.

"The corps are detrained at Ascot."—*London Globe, July* 9, 1881.

DEWBERRY.

"The fruit is called a dewberie."—*Lyte, Dodoens,* 6.4.661 (1578).

"Feed him with apricocks and dewberries."—*Midsummer Night's Dream,* 3.1 (1590).

DID NOT HAVE.

This locution is not included in either of the four vocabularies from which are taken the other words and phrases in the present list; but is pronounced by the London Saturday Review "at once the ugliest and the most inexplicable of Americanisms." As to its being "inexplicable," every reader of course sees that it is perfectly regular and a very common form of the negative preterite. As to its being ugly, that is a matter of taste; but if one must always, to avoid an ugly form, say "had not," it of course follows that one must always say "I went not," "I drank not," "I gave not," "I shook not," "I fell not," and so on indefinitely, instead of the usual form—did not go, did not drink, did not give, did not shake, did

not fall. As to its being in any sense an Americanism, I have grave doubts. Are we to believe that an Englishman would say, "I could not give it, because I had it not," and that only an American, with no sense of the beautiful in language, would say, "I could not give it, because I did not have it"?

DIFFERENCE in the stock market.

"You'll pay the difference of that stock we transacted for."—*Mrs. Centlivre, Bold Stroke for Wife,* 4.1 (1717).

DIFFICULTED—Perplexed.

"I would be difficulted to read the King of France 'the most Christian King.' "—*Robert Wodrow, Correspondence,* 1.464 (1713).

DIG—A blow.

"And divers digs and many a ponderous pelt."—*Moore, Tom Crib,* 51 (1819).

DIGGING—Excavation.

"Let us not project long designs, crafty plots, and diggings so deep."—*Jeremy Taylor, Holy Dying,* 1.2.3 (1650).

DIME.

The specific use of this word for a coin as being the tenth part of the unit of our currency is of course peculiar to this country; but the word itself, meaning one-tenth, is as old as the 14th Century, for it occurs in "Piers Plowman."

DINGEE, DINKY—Kind of boat.

"Dingas are vessels used at Bombay."—*Rigging and Seamanship,* 1.242 (1794).

DINGLING—Tottling, insecure.

"Dingle dangle, dangling down."—*John Florio, Spendolone* (1598).

DIPPER—Vessel to dip with.

"Dipper, spoon made in a certain form."—*Mason's Supplement to Johnson's Dictionary* (1801).

DIPSY—Float of fish line.

Seems to be corruption of *deep sea,* and Bartlett's definition quoted above looks like an error. The earliest known use of the word is in Marryat's "Dog Fiend," 43 (1837), where it is applied to the sinker.

DISFELLOWSHIP—Exclude from fellowship.

"Kneeling at the Lord's feast is a carriage of abasement and inferiority, and such as importeth disfellowship with him."—*Hieron, Defence,* 3.7 (1608).

DISGRUNTLED—Much displeased.

"Hodge was a little disgruntled at that inscription."—*Cave, History of Popery,* 4.79 (1682).

DISGUISED—Drunk.

Elwyn says this is found in Beaumont & Fletcher's "Philaster" (1620).

DISREMEMBER—To forget.

"The lines of the author he feigns to disremember."—*Mahoney, Father Prout,* 373 (1836).

DISUNIONIST.

First appeared in Worcester's Dictionary of 1846, with citation from "North," almost cer-

tainly a British writer, perhaps "Christopher North."

DITE—"A little thing, a doit"—so Bartlett.

Merely a slight mispronunciation of a very old word.

DIVORT—Watershed.

Appears in Murray as a verb, "to turn away, separate," with citation of 1581.

DOG—To hunt with dogs.

"Being overheated in being dogged to their confinement."—*T. Stone, Agriculture of Lincolnshire,* 62 (1794).

DOLESS—Inefficient.

"Hard is the fate o' ony doless tyke that's forced to marry one he disna like."—*E. Picken, Poems,* 148 (1788).

DOLITTLE—Idler.

"What woman would be content with such a do-little husband?"—*Kennet, Erasmus' Folly,* 45 (1683).

DONATION—Gift.

"They had a donation given unto each of them."—*Bullinger's Decades,* 960 (1577).

DO-NOTHING—Idler.

"It is not for a do-nothing that this office is ordained."—*Tomson, Calvin's Sermons* (1579).

DORY—Small boat.

Occurs in the Naval Chronicle of 1798.

DOTED—Half rotten.

Traced back by Murray, as applied to the failing intellect of an old man, to the 14th Century.

DOUBLE—Having petals greatly multiplied in number by cultivation.

"By often setting they wax very double."—*Lyte, Dodoens,* 2.10.159 (1578).

DOUGHFACE—Person of no "backbone"; a "trimmer."

"The doughfaced spectres crowded forth."—*Wolcott, Tears of St. Margaret* (1792).

DOUGHNUT.

Is in Halliwell, spelled *donnut,* and credited to Hertfordshire.

DOVE—Dived.

Murray characterizes this preterite as "modern dialect," formed after the analogy of *drive, drove.*

DOWN—A low condition.

"Wit has her ups and downs."—*British Apollo* (1710).

DOWN UPON. "To be down upon is to seize with avidity," says Bartlett.

"We should be down upon the fellow one of these darkmans, and let him get it well."—*Guy Mannering,* 28 (1815).

DRAT IT!

" 'Drat that Betty,' says one of the washerwomen."—*Sporting Magazine,* 46.13 (1815).

DREADFUL—Very.

"Some look dreadful gay."—*Creech's Lucretius,* 52 (1682).

DRESSING—"Stuffing, forced meat, gravy," says Bartlett.

Murray's definitions of the word include "the seasoning substance used in cooking; stuffing, &c.," with quotations as early as 1504.

DRIVE—A gathering of a large number of animals.

"Those taken in the second drive."—*Sir Jas. E. Tennent, Ceylon* (1859).

DRIVER—He that drives.

"Buffoons, stage players and chariot drivers."—*Savile's Tacitus* (1581).

DROGER—Vessel intended for heavy goods.

"If they are not employed in droghers, means shall be furnished to depart for the neutral islands."—*Annual Register* (1782).

DRUMMER—Solicitor of orders for goods.

"The numbers of Lodge's book were left by some drummer of the trade on speculation."—*Scott, Sharpe's Correspondence,* 2.398 (1827).

DRUNK—A drinking bout.

"Both houses made preparations for a general drunk."—*London Times, April* 10, 1862.

DUBERSOME—Doubtful.

Halliwell says, under *duberous:* "Perhaps the more usual form of the word is *dubersome.*"

DUMMY—Imaginary holder of a hand of cards that is played by the partner.

"She shall not handle a card; dummy shall be substituted in her place."—*Swift, Quadrille, in Works,* 7.374 (1736).

DUMPY—Sad.

"Dumpier none than the tobacconer; none sadder than the gladdest of their host."—*Sylvester, Tobacco Battered,* 643 (1618).

DUST—"To depart rapidly," says Bartlett. Ware copies the entry (in "Passing English"), defining it "to walk quickly," and adding the comment: "Indirect proof of the dry nature of American weather"! The word in this application is two or three centuries old in England.

"Let folly dust it on or lag behind."—*H. Vaughan, Silex Scintillans,* 75 (1655).

DUTIABLE—Liable to duty.

"The number of dutiable articles."—*A. Young, Political Arithmetic* (1774).

## E

EAR BOB—Ear drop.

"Her ear bobs of some considerable jewels."—*Gage, West Indies* (1648).

EDIBLES.

"Birds, fishes and other edibles."—*Lovell, Hist. Anim. and Min., Introduction* (1661).

EDUCATIONAL.

"Is there not an everlasting demand for intellect in the educational departments?"—*Sartor Resartus,* 2.11 (1831).

EEL SPEAR.

"He beareth eel spears argent."—*Guillim, Heraldry,* 235 (1610).

EGG ON—To urge.

"Still in use in the north of England," says Halliwell, implying that the expression is of great antiquity.

ELECT followed by an infinitive.

"She must elect to take under the will or against the will."—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow* (1785).

ELECTIONEERING—Solicitation of votes.

"Officers are to manage their troops by electioneering."—*Burke, French Revolution,* 315 (1790).

EMPT—To empty.

"Thereby shall he not win, but empt his purse."—*Chaucer, Chanones Yemanne's Tale,* 22 (1386).

ENGAGE—Promise to do something.

"Hazarding rather to consume than engage themselves to feminine embracements."—*Florio, Montaigne,* 493 (1603).

ENGINEER—Engine driver.

"I am not able to speak of the engineers in his majesty's ships."—*Robinson, Nautical Steam,* 174 (1839).

ENJOY BAD HEALTH.

Richard Grant White heard the custodian of St. Mary's Hall, Coventry, say that "the mayor enjoyed very indifferent health"; and quoted (Atlantic Monthly, July 1878) from a London book called "English Matrons": "It is not the manual workers alone who, as they say in Leicestershire, enjoy very poor health."

ENWEAVE—Inweave.

"This is with two kinds of fibres enwoven."—*Banister, History of Man,* 5.70 (1578).

ERUPT—Burst forth.

"Its roots, from which some sprigs erupt."—*Tomlinson, Renou's Disp.*, 223 (1657).

ESQ.—Complimentary addition to a man's name, signifying nothing.

Used ten times in England, especially in directing letters, for once in the United States.

EXPECT—Believe, conjecture, with reference to the present or the past.

The appearance of this misuse of the verb in Farmer's book is not remarkable, considering that that writer had never visited America; but its insertion by Bartlett, from whom Farmer took it, is less easy to explain, for it needed only reference to Elwyn or to Halliwell to show him that the blunder is distinctly British in origin, though I do not know whether it was true when Bartlett wrote, as it is certainly true now, that you will hear it at least a hundred times in England for once in the United States. I do not believe you can find as many instances of the misuse in any dozen American books as occur in Hardy's "Jude." And I have happened to notice it in the Cornhill Magazine, the Author's Circular ("Official Organ of the English School of Journalism"), Gardening Illustrated, and many other English periodicals. It would take a long time, I believe, to find one single instance in any American paper.

EXPOSITION—Exhibition.

"The Universal Exposition of 1867."—*Sala, Paris Exhibition,* 2.15 (1868).

## F

FAIR—To clear up, said of the sky.

"We are to go, if it fairs, to take tea."—*Mrs. Carlyle, Letters,* 1.182 (1842).

FAIR AND SQUARE—Honorable; straightforward.

"There will be no living for the Portugal unless he do that which is fair and square."—*Cromwell, Letters,* 146 (1649).

FAKE—Swindle.

"The ring is made out of brass gilt buttons; it's faked." —*Mayhew, London Labor,* 352 (1851).

FALL (a tree)—To fell.

Pickering says the word was so defined by Ash, Sheridan and Walker; that it occurs in the English part of Ainsworth; and that by "Geo. III, c. 18," it was enacted that "all timber growing upon such ground is to be fallen by such owner within one month."

FAMILY—Wife and children, or children only.

"Of sixty persons forming the household of the Duke of Hesse, no one outside his own family has been attacked."—*London Spectator, Dec.* 14, 1878.

FANDANGO—Lively dance.

"The fandango requires sentiment to dance it well."— *Mme. D'Arblay, Early Diary,* 1.286 (1800).

FARINA—Wheaten grits; fine flour.

"The meal was called farina."—*Googe, Heresbach's Husbandry,* 1.29 (1577).

FAST—Dissipated.

"In consultation how to repair the defects of fast living."—*Heywood, Female Spectator,* 2.273 (1745).

FAY IN—Fit in.

*Fay,* meaning to adapt, is one of the very oldest English verbs, dating, in the form *fey,* from the 11th Century.

FEARFUL—Much, great, strongly.

Halliwell has "fearful—tremendous; various dialects." The Northwest Lincolnshire Glossary gives citation: "There's a fearful lot of apples t'year."

FEDERAL—Founded on a compact between independent states.

Term made familiar in this country by the writers who appealed to the public in the discussions over the adoption of our national constitution; but it had already been in use for a long time in England, and it is defined by Johnson.

FEDERALIZE—United in compact.

First known use of this word is as a translation of *federalizer* in Dupree's French Dictionary (1801).

FEED—Grass or the like.

"When as the one is wounded with the bait, the other

rotteth with delicious feed."—*Titus Andronicus*, 4.4.92 (1588).

FEEL as in phrase "feel to do"—Feel inclined.

"When he wants one, he takes it; when he does not feel to want one, he goes without it."—*London Society, October*, 1866.

FELLOWSHIP as a verb.

As in the case of *candidate*, this locution is merely an illustration of the law that any English noun may be properly used as a verb. The verb *fellowship* occurs as far back as Chaucer's "Boethius," three times, one case being where he says that Thought "fellowshippeth the way of old Saturn."

FEN—To forbid or bar out; boys' word, used in games. (When the present writer was a boy, it was "fan.")

Noted in Moor's "Suffolk Words," 125 (1823).

FENCE (made of wood).

Clapin's counting this use of the word among Americanisms is one of the oddities of his book. It has been used in England in the same general way, without reference to the material of which the barrier is constructed, as long as the word has been used at all. In Ps. 62.3, a "fence" is distinguished from a "wall."

FENCE—Receiver of stolen goods, or his establishment.

"You covetous, avaricious, in-sa-ti-a-ble old fence!"—*Oliver Twist,* 13 (1838).

"The keeper of the fence loves to set up in business here."—*Illustrated London News, May* 22, 1847.

FEW in phrase "a few"—A little.

"Having a few pottage, made of the broth of the same beef."—*Lever, Sermons* (1550).

FID—Plug or small piece of tobacco.

Defined in Grose.

FILIBUSTER.

Merely corruption of the old word *flibutor,* used in England, in precisely the same sense, at least as early as the 16th Century. Seems to be allied to *freebooter.*

FILLS (of a wagon)—Thills.

"An you draw backward, we'll put you i' the fills."—*Troilus and Cressida,* 3.2 (1606).

FIND used as noun.

"A good find he had."—*Southey Letters, Aug.* 30, 1825.

FINEFIED—Dandified.

"Her rotten trunk and rusty fan she finified."—*Warner, Albion's England,* 2.10 (1586).

FIPPENY, FIP—Fivepence.

"Phippunny," same meaning, is included in a vocabulary of Lancashire words in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1746.

FIRE—To throw or cast.

"The archers firing on them all the while."—*Ockley, Saracens,* 143 (1708).

FIRE OUT—Eject.

"Yet this shall I ne'er know, but live in doubt, till my bad angel fire my good one out."—*Shakespeare, Sonnet* 144 (1592).

FIREDOGS—Andirons.

*Dog,* in the same sense, is defined in Brockett's "Vocabulary of North Country Words," London, 1846.

FIRE-EATER.

Occurs in "The Newcomes," chap. 29 (1855). No American instance of earlier date is known.

FIRE-HOOK—Appliance for pulling down a burning building.

Murray gives quotation of 1647.

FIRE-WOOD—Wood intended for fuel.

Occurs in Nottingham Record, 3.290 (1496).

FIRST CLASS applied to persons.

"First class servants who had fallen into second class circumstances."—*Surtees, Ask Mamma,* 45.199 (1858).

FIRST RATE.

"A few first rate frigates."—*Evelyn, Memoirs,* 2.66 (1671).

FISHY—Incredible.

The first known appearance of this adjective is in Disraeli's "Coningsby," 1.9 (1844). It

does not seem to mean exactly *incredible* there, but something not widely different, perhaps *slippery* or *questionable*, as we speak of a man or a story as being "fishy."

FIT—Fought.

"There were two gentlemen fit yesterday."—*Garrick, Miss in Her Teens* (*before* 1768).

FIX—Undesirable position.

Defined ("a difficulty") in Davies. Occurs in the "Ingoldsby Legends" (1844); in stories by Marryat and Black; in Punch at least as far back as April 9, 1864; and in the Pall Mall Gazette of Oct. 28, 1860.

FIX—To put in order.

"I found the arms well fixed, charged and primed."—*Pepys' Diary, July* 12, 1663.

FLAKES—Poles supporting drying fish.

"Flakes whereon men yearly dry their fish."—*Whitbourne, Newfoundland,* 57 (1623).

FLAPDOODLE—Nonsense.

Said by Halliwell to be a West-of-England word.

FLARE—Curve out.

Defined in Seaman's Dictionary (1640).

FLASHBOARD—Addition to a milldam.

"The miller has shoots stopped by flashboards."—*Abraham Tucker, Light of Nature,* 1.32 (1768).

FLASH IN PAN—Fail.

"Cannons were so well bred in his metaphor as only to flash in the pan."—*Elkanah Settle, Dryden,* 20. (1687).

FLAT—Complete, unqualified.

"The answerer must use flat denying."—*Wilson, Logic,* 61 (1551).

FLAT BOAT.

"Almost every inhabitant hath his flat boat, wherein they recreate upon the lake."—*F. Brooke, Le Blanc's Travels,* 209 (1660).

FLEABANE—A plant.

"Conyza may be called in English flebayne."—*Turner, Names of Herbs,* 30 (1548).

FLIP—Intoxicating drink.

"Eat biscuit and drink flip."—*Congreve, Love for Love,* 3.4 (1695).

FLURRY of snow.

Only a slight variation of an expression applied in England to wind at least as far back as 1698.

FLYING FISH.

A simply descriptive expression that it seems rather absurd to number among any sort of isms. However, it was first used in England, as long ago as 1511.

FOLKS—People, persons.

Johnson's Dictionary defines the word, "people, in familiar language," and quotes Sidney:

"Other folks' misfortunes." Precisely the colloquial, rather vulgar, Americanism.

FOOTY—Foolish.

"Many a critic has foisted in some footy emendation." —*W. Dodd, Beauties of Shakespeare, Preface* (1752).

FOR—In honor of; to name a child for his father.

Murray says this locution is "now only U. S.," implying that it was formerly British.

FOREHANDED—In easy circumstances.

"They that are forehanded are able to give time and forbear long."—*Gurnall, Christian in Armor,* 2.576 (1658).

FORGE AHEAD—Advance.

A ship was spoken of as forging (i. e., moving) as long ago as 1611 in England. First known appearance of phrase forge ahead is in Marryat's "Peter Simple," 35 (1833).

FOTCH—Fetch.

This southern negro word is merely an obsolete form which was good English in the 14th Century, though then spelled *foche.*

FOX—Repair a shoe.

So defined in the Antrim and Down Glossary.

FOX FIRE—Light from decaying wood.

Murray gives citation of 1483.

FOXY—Scheming, deceitful.

"An hole or den of false foxy hypocrites."—*Roy, Rede Me, Dedication* (1528).

FRAUD—A rascal.

"The begging-letter writer is one of the most shameless frauds."—*Dickens, Reprinted Pieces,* 120 (1850).

FREAK—Odd person or animal.

"An association of natural curiosities called freaks, being an abbreviation of the term 'freaks of nature' by which these monstrosities are described."—*London Daily News,* Sept. 11, 1883.

FREE TO CONFESS.

Bartlett's earliest citation for this phrase, North American Review, October, 1858, is antedated 17 years by an English novel, "Cecil," by Mrs. Gore, published 1841.

FRESH—Forward; bold.

"When a fellow is sixteen, he is very fresh."—*Kenelm Chillingly,* 1.9 (1873).

FRESH—A stream.

"A fresh or brook that falleth into the Nure."—*Hanmer, Ireland,* 63 (1571).

FROE—Cleaver.

"A frower of iron, for cleaning of lath."—*Tusser, Husbandry,* 17.36 (1573).

FROLIC—A party.

"I intend to wait on you and give you a frolic."—*Jas. Howell, Letters,* 6.37 (1645).

FUGELMAN, FUGLEMAN—Leader.

Used by the London Morning Chronicle in 1804.

FUNERAL—Funeral sermon.

"Mr. Lawrence preached his funerals."—*Fuller, Church History,* 9.3.2 (1655).

FUNK—To exhibit fear.

"One or two of the Boyle party began to funk."—*De Quincey, Richard Bentley.*

## G

GABBLEMENT—Chattering.

"The old gander again set up his gabblement."—*Michael Scott, Tom Cringle,* 18.515 (1833).

GALLINIPPER—An insect.

"Smaller flies, from the gallinipper to the moschetto."—*Sporting Magazine,* 1.261 (1818).

GALLUS—Showy.

"Put it on your face so gallus thick that the devil himself won't see through it."—*Jas. Greenwood, Seven Curses of London,* 244.

GALOOT—Fellow, chap (with connotation of contempt).

"Four greater galloots were never picked up."—*Marryat, Jacob Faithful,* 34 (1835).

GALUMPH—"Go bumping along," says Farmer, adding that "the furious driving of the one-horse cars in the streets of American cities has become a notorious scandal." Verily a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. Think of an Englishman's not knowing that *galumph* is a word invented by an English clergyman, the Rev.

C. L. Dodgson, "Lewis Carroll," who uses it in the first chapter of "Alice through the Looking Glass"! I do not believe that this will be new information to one single American who reads it here.

GANGE—Attach a hook to a line.

"The line was ganged with flexible brass wire."—*Couch, British Fishes,* 1.38 (1861).

GARMENTURE—Clothing.

"All the green garmenture of summer was gone."—*G. P. R. James, Henry Masterton,* 37.420 (1832).

GARNISHEE—Person holding property of judgment debtor.

"If they were delivered upon other condition, the garnishee is at no mischief."—*Sir H. Finch, Law,* 373 (1627).

GARRISON—Fort.

This is the older meaning of the word, in use in England in the 15th Century. The application to the troops stationed in the fort, now the only meaning, is of later date.

GAT or GATE—A strait, an opening.

"Three ships took through the gat or opening between sand banks."—*A. Carlyle, Autobiography,* 163 (1805).

GATHER—Take up a single object.

"A gathered lily."—*Titus Andronicus,* 3.1.114 (1588).

GAUNTED—Thin.

Used in Staneyhurst translation of Æneid, 2.55 (1583).

GEE—Fit, suit, agree with.

Defined in Dictionary of the Canting Crew (1700).

GENT—Genteel.

"Duck in his trousers hath he hent, not to be spied of ladies gent."—*Pope, Imitation of Chaucer.*

GENT—Gentleman.

"My humble tenement admits all persons in the dress of gent."—*Byron, Polidori,* 59 (1817).

GET—Offspring.

"Mine own get is from me taken."—*Brunne, Meditations,* 817 (1320).

GIRDLE (tree)—Cut belt around.

"Trials have been made by girdling the tree."—*History of Royal Society,* 1.101 (1662).

GIVE OUT—Fail.

"These plows give out too suddenly."—*Fitzherbert, Husbandry,* 2 (1523).

GLIMPSE—Get glimpse of.

"Glimpsing in some things the difference between Romish and Protestant."—*Forrest, New Guinea,* 292 (1779).

GLOBE TROTTER.

Used in first chapter of Stevenson's "Silverado Squatters" (1883).

GLORIFY—To boast.

So used in "Ayenbite of Inwit," 25 (1340).

GO-AHEAD—Progressive.

"You would fancy that the go-ahead party try to restore order."—*Kingsley, Two Years Ago,* 14 (1857).

GO-CART—Hand cart.

"Bantam's sheep have their tails trundled along in a co-cart."—*Goldsmith, Bee,* 2 (1759).

GOING—Traveling; "the going is bad."

"The going to the galleries should have been by steps."—*Leoni, Palladio's Architecture,* 1.94 (1715).

GO IT—Go at a task; undertake it.

"The French went it for guavas."—*Arber, English Garner,* 7.365 (1689).

GOLDENROD—A plant.

"Virga aurea may be called in English goldenrod."—*Turner, Herbal,* 3.78 (1568).

GO TO GRASS!

Occurs in Beaumont & Fletcher, "Little French Lawyer," 4.5 (1625).

GONDOLA—Flat bottomed boat.

Used in England and as an English word certainly as early as the middle of the 16th Century.

GONE WITH—Become of.

"What's gone with the pie?"—*Great Expectations,* 5 (1858). This is the earliest citation I can give, and the phrase seems to have been used in the United States at a much earlier date, but as it also occurs in dialect talk in old issues of Punch, and as it is very improbable that either Dickens or Punch got it from America, it would seem that the phrase is almost certainly of British origin.

GOOBER—Peanut.

Said by Mrs. Walter T. Currie, missionary at Chisamba, Bike, West Africa, to be a native word of that region.

GOODY—1. Well disposed but small minded person.

"This may be goody weakness and twaddle."—*Sterling, Letter of Nov.* 16, 1837, *in Carlyle's Life,* 2.5.144.

2. Middle-aged woman of humble station.

One need only remember Goldsmith's "Goody Two-Shoes" and Wordsworth's "Goody Blake" to appreciate the fitness of classing this term as an Americanism.

GOSH in ejaculation, "By Gosh!"

This elegant form of oath is given in Moor's "Suffolk Glossary," London, 1823.

GO-TO-MEETING—Very choice, the best one has, especially as applied to clothes.

This has a New England air, but is defined by Davies, with citations from Thomas Hughes and Charles Kingsley.

GO TO THE BAD.

Defined in Hotten's "Dictionary of London Slang."

GOTTEN.

The decided preference of Americans for this old (15th Century) and comparatively euphonious form, which has been largely supplanted in England by *got,* is something to be thankful for; many modern writers in England concur in it.

"The triumphs of his gotten victory."—*Chalmers, Congregational Sermons,* 2.54 (1820).

"Compelled to disgorge his ill-gotten gains."—*Macaulay, England,* 17.5.45 (1859).

"On gotten goods to live contentedly."—*Gladstone, Horace's Odes,* 36 (1894).

GOUGING—Twisting out an antagonist's eye.

"There were frequently up-and-down fights, sometimes with the horrid additions of pawsing and gouging."—*Gaskell, Life of Charlotte Bronte,* 2.26 (1857).

GOVERNMENTAL—Relating to government.

Murray gives a British citation of 1744.

GRADE—Degree or rank.

"Having jumped through all the inferior grades, he became colonel."—*Barrett, Miss-led General,* 32 (1808).

GRAIN—Little bit; "I don't care a grain."

"When our hearts grow a grain too light, God seeth it needful to make us heavy through temptations."—*Trapp, Commentary, I Peter,* 1.6 (1647).

GRANT with infinitive, as said to be used in prayer at the South: "Grant to hear us."

"Do you grant to hold and keep the laws?"—*Sir Nicholas Bacon, Government of England,* 1.200 (1647).

GRASS—Asparagus.

"Boil some grass tender, cut it small, and lay it over the eggs."—*Glasse, Cookery,* 14.234 (1747). Context makes it clear that asparagus is meant.

GRASS WIDOW—Wife separated from her husband.

"These ladies are known as grass widows."—*Vigne, Travels in Kashmir,* 1.38.

GRAVEL—Confound, embarrass, nonplus.

"What graveled him most was that his opponents insisted upon a miracle."—*Life of Mohammed, in anonymous translation of Koran, London,* 1718, *p.* 12.

GRAVEYARD—Cemetery.

The first known use of this word is in an American book pub. 1825; but as it occurs in Macaulay's "England," 16.3.621 (1855), it is probably an old British term, though perhaps local.

GREAT BIG—Very large.

"In her bulk bestow a great big burden."—*Chapman's Hesiod,* 2.1.405 (1618).

GREEK—Irishman.

"Irishmen call themselves Greeks."—*Jon Bee, Dictionary of the Turf* (1823).

GREEN—Public square, common.

Occurs in Aberdeen Register, 1.35 (1477).

GREENING—Kind of apple.

"Russetings and Greenings."—*Evelyn, Pomona,* 4.13 (1664).

GREENS—Vegetables.

"Fresh provisions, such as roots, greens and fowls."—*De Foe, Voyage round World,* 91 (1728).

GRIND—Hard student.

Earliest known appearance of this noun is American, 1896; but the word was used as a verb, meaning to work hard, long before that time, in Great Britain.

GRIT THE TEETH—Grind them.

The verb *grit,* meaning to produce a grating sound, is used by Goldsmith, "Citizen of the World," 30 (1762).

GROCERIES—Commodities sold by grocers.

"A deal box to bring home groceries in."—*Vicar of Wakefield,* 12 (1766).

GRUNTER—1. Kind of fish.

"Their creeks are well stocked with grunters and drum-fish."—*Shelvock, Voyage round World,* 55 (1726).

2. A pig.

"Grunter's gig, smoked hog's face."—*Grose.*

GUESS.

There is not a single sense or shade of meaning in which this verb is ever heard in the United States for which British usage of hundreds of years might not be cited. The following quotations could be multiplied indefinitely. I restrict myself to two only for each application of the word, one showing such application to be so old that it certainly was not imported from this country, and the second, of the 19th Century, showing that it is current in Great Britain down to our own time.

1. To estimate; "I guess it's a mile."

"Her yellow hair was braided in a tress behind her back, a yarde long I guess."—*Chaucer, Knight's Tale,* 1051 (14th *Century*).

"The eye being liable to be grossly deceived in guessing the direction of a perpendicular."—*Tyndall, Glaciers,* 2.10.277 (1860).

2. To conjecture; "I guess he wrote it."

"You cannot guess who caused your father's death."—*Richard Third,* 2.2.19 (1597).

"I little guessed the end."—*Mrs. Browning, Romaunt of the Page,* 16.1 (1844).

3. To judge, believe, suppose; "I guess that's enough."

"Thou guessest the gift of God should be had for money."—*Wyclif, Acts* VIII.21 (1382).

"There's somebody gone after them, I guess."—*Wuthering Heights,* 12 (1847).

4. To solve a riddle; "here's a conundrum you can't guess."

"The riddle is not hard to read; I guess it."—*Prior, Beauty,* 37 (1718).

"Have you guessed the riddle?"—*Alice in Wonderland,* 7 (1869).

5. To announce a decision; "I guess you may send me this hat."

"Better far, I guess, that we do make our entrance several ways."—*First King Henry VI,* 2.1 (1593).

"I guess the best return I can make will be to take myself off."—*Wildfell Hall,* 32 (1848).

6. To emphasize a statement; "I guess you can't make me do that."

"Why meet him at the gates and redeliver our authorities there? I guess not!"—*Measure for Measure,* 4.4.6 (1603).

"I know the way well enough; I've been at the Cleeve before now, I guess."—*Trollope, Orley Farm,* 2.23 (1862).

GULLY as a verb.

Like *candidate* and *fellowship,* this is only an exemplification of the law, about as old as the

language, that any English noun may be used as a verb. It may be noted that the not-well-authorized reversal of the rule, by using a verb for a noun, is likewise of transatlantic origin, the British having set the example by calling a meeting a "meet," as some Americans improperly call a combination a "combine."

GUM—Nonsense, humbug, hoax.

"There's no occasion to bowss out so much unnecessary gum."—*Smollett, Peregrine Pickle,* 16.1.115 (1751).

GUMMY!—An exclamation.

Elwyn says that "gum, a vulgar oath, is from Essex."

GUMP—Foolish fellow.

Defined as "numscull" in Supplement to Jamieson's English Dictionary (1825).

GUMPTIOUS—Having gumption, old English word for shrewdness. The adjective may have been first used in the United States.

GUNNING—Shooting game.

"There is less danger in it than gunning."—*Fletcher, Rule a Wife,* 1.2 (1624).

GUNSTICK—Ramrod.

"The sulphur, though of great thickness round the gunstick."—*Philosophical Transactions,* 44.32 (1746).

GUTTERSNIPE—Child that frequents street gutters.

"Female guttersnipes that gain precarious living by hunting for unconsidered trifles."—*London Echo, Feb.* 11, 1869.

## H

HACKBERRY.

Murray calls this "a variant of *hagberry,*" in use in England as far back as 1597.

HAD HAVE, as in phrase: "Had we have known."

Richard Grant White says this blunder "may be heard daily in any part of England."

HAKE—Kind of fish.

"A fish which we call hakes."—*Eden, Decades,* 273 (1555).

HALF-BAKED—Silly.

"He must scheme, this half-baked Scotch cake!"—*St. Ronan's Well,* 31 (1824).

HAMMOCK—Hummock.

"Right above that and into the land a round hammock."—*Hakluyt, Voyages,* 104 (1556).

HAND—Adept; "I'm a great hand at dancing."

"He might be one of our first hands in poetry."—*Cowper, Letter, March* 30, 1792.

HANDSHAKE.

"I gave him a hearty handshake."—*Tristram, Moab,* 18.244 (1873).

HANG—To stick fast.

"A noble stroke he lifted high, which hung not."—*Paradise Lost,* 6.189 (1667).

HANG OUT—Make one's home.

"The traps savey where we hang out."—*Lexicon Balatronicum* (1811).

HAPPEN IN—Make a call without special purpose.

Murray gives "happen in with, to meet casually," as Scotch and English dialect.

HAPPIFY—Make happy.

"This prince one short mishap forever happifies."—*Sylvester, Henry the Great,* 642 (1612).

HARDHEAD—Kind of fish.

"Scorpius major, our fishers call it hardhead."—*Sibbald, Fife,* 128 (1803).

HARD MONEY—Coin.

"Your mother has a hundred pound in hard money."—*Farquhar, Recruiting Officer,* 4.3 (1706).

HARDWOOD—Wood of solid texture.

"Deciduous trees, what is here called hardwood."—*Robertson, Survey of Kincardine,* 343 (1813).

HARNESS CASK—Tub for salt meat.

"Thieves, breaking open a harness cask, stole about one cwt. of beef."—*Aberdeen Journal, Dec.* 2, 1818.

HASTY PUDDING.

"I can think of no fitter name than hasty pudding."—*Buttes, Drie Dinner, F.II* (1599).

HAUL—"To convey by drawing."

Thornton has this entry because, as he says, "in the English use of the word, force or violence is included." It seems to me that force is always exerted when hauling is done, whether it be of a load of stones or of a drunken man, and that any supposed peculiarity in our use of the word, as applied to hauling inanimate loads, is purely fanciful.

HAWHAW—To laugh heartily.

Richard Grant White says (Atlantic Monthly, March, 1879) that Englishmen familiar with the general speech of their own country will be astonished at seeing this word in a compilation of Americanisms.

HAY TEDDER.

The word tedder has been used in England, first for a man who makes hay and afterwards for the machine, since the 15th Century.

HAZE—"To riot, frolic"—so Bartlett, with newspaper quotation of Dec. 2, 1848: "Hazing about the street at night." Tate's Magazine, 8.592 (1841), seven years earlier than the American instance, has: "It would be idle to follow her in hazing about—a capital word that, and one worthy of instant adoption—among the sights of London."

HEADSTALL—Knitted worsted cap.

Merely a changed use of a word applied in England for centuries to a part of a horse's halter.

HEAP—A great many; much.

"No county in England hath such a heap of castles."—*Fuller, Worthies,* 3.53 (1661).

"This heap of artificial terms first entering with the French artists."—*Sir Thos. Browne, Tracts,* 116 (1682).

HEAVE—To throw.

"The pirates heaved me overboard."—*Robert Greene, Orpharion* (1592).

HEAVY as applied to sums of money—Large.

"The heavy betters began to quake."—*Sporting Magazine,* 48.181 (1816).

HET—Heated.

The old participle, in good use in England in the 14th, 15th and 16th Centuries.

HETCHEL—To worry, annoy.

"Bewitted, fleeced, hatchelled, bewildered."—*Carlyle, Cagliostro* (1833).

HIRE—"Improperly applied to renting a house," says Bartlett, most absurdly; for "renting a house," like "leasing a house," may mean either hiring it or letting it. Wyclif (1382) translated Mark XII.I: "A man planted a vineyard and hired it to the tilieris." Really it was the tillers, and not the owner, who hired it.

HITCH—Entanglement; impediment.

"There seems to be some hitch in Legge's embassy."—*Horace Walpole, Letters* (1748).

HOBBLE—To tie a horse's legs.

Merely variant of the old English *hopple.* Used by Dickens, "Uncommercial Traveller," 11 (1860).

HOBO.

"The tramp's name for himself and his fellows is 'hobo.' "—*Contemporary Review, August,* 1891.

HOCKEY STICK.

Murray gives citation of 1527.

HOD CARRIER.

Occurs in Smollett, "Humphrey Clinker" (1771).

HOGBACKS—"Ridges of upheaval."

"A rugged hill, joined by a hog's back ridge to the mountain."—*Sir W. Napier, Peninsular War* (1834).

HOGFISH.

"The crocodiles fear to meddle with the hogfish."—*Topsell, Serpents,* 137 (1608).

HOG PLUM.

"They have abundance of hogplum trees."—*Dampier, Voyages,* 1.123 (1697).

HOMELY—Ugly.

"Who can tell if such men are worth a groat, when their apparel is so homely?"—*Wilson, Rhetoric,* 164 (1553).

HOMESPUN.

"One being clad only in homespun cloth."—*Florio* (1591).

HOMINY.

Elwyn found this word, defined "Indian corn," "in an old book in the Philadelphia Library, printed in London, no date."

HOPPING MAD—In a violent rage.

"I used to make him hopping mad."—*Chas. Cotton, Burlesque upon Burlesque,* 52 (1675).

HORN—A drink.

"He went to Queen's College and had a horn of beer."—*Anthony à Wood, Life, May* 31, 1682.

HORN—"In a horn,"—over the left.

Defined in Moor's "Suffolk Glossary," London (1823).

HORRORS—Depression of mind.

"He is coming this way, all in the horrors."—*Goldsmith, Goodnatured Man* (1768).

HORSE COLT—Male colt.

Occurs in Wyclif's "Ecclesiasticus," 23.30 (1382).

HORSE MINT.

Traced back by Murray to the 13th Century.

HOSE—Stockings.

"Some go with their hose out at heels."—*Wilson, Rhetoric,* 82 (1553).

HOUND—To pursue.

"It is by hounding nature in her wanderings."—*Lord Bacon, Advancement of Learning* (1605).

HOUNDS—Part of a wagon.

The earliest known uses of this word are American; but as it is defined in the "Sussex Glossary" and the "Somerset Word Book," it is almost certainly an old English provincialism.

HOUSE in compounds like *wash-house,* where an Englishman would say *laundry*—so Bartlett. Sam Weller says the young grampus ate his dinner "in the wash 'us." According to Richard Grant White (and the present writer's impressions are to the same effect) "such compounds are much more common in England than they are here."

[ow?—Please repeat.

So used by Massinger, "Duke of Milan," 3.3 (1623) and "Believe as You List," 2.2 (1653).

[UCKLEBERRY ABOVE THE PERSIMMON.

Merely development of an old English phrase exemplified by De Quincey, "Murder as a Fine Art": "It passes my persimmon."

[UGGERMUGGER—To keep concealed.

"His uncle had saved money, and it was huggermuggered away."—*Mary Charlton, Wife and Mistress,* 4.25 (1803).

IULKING—Bulky.

Defined "unwieldy" by Halliwell. *Hulky,* in the same sense, occurs in "Middlemarch," Chap. 56.

IULL—To remove hulls.

"Pollenta is corn peeled and hulled."—*John of Trevisa, Bodleian MS.* (1398).

IULLS—Husks of peas.

Occurs in one of Wyclif's sermons, 14th Century.

IUMAN as noun—Human being.

"Mars, plague of men, smeared with the blood of humans."—*Chapman's Homer,* 5.441 (1603).

IUMANITARIAN.

"The sect of the humanitarians."—*Moore's Diary, Jan. 30, 1819.*

HUMMOCK, HOMMOCK, HAMMOCK—Knoll by the coast.

"This island is a round hummock, containing not a league of ground."—*Hawkins, Voyages,* 180 (1622).

HUNG, past participle, for hanged, as applied to criminals and suicides.

"You suppose he should have hung himself?"—*Ben Jonson, Every Man out of His Humor,* 3.2 (1599).

HUNK—Large piece.

Defined in "Dictionary of Isle-of-Wight Dialect."

HUNKERS—An extinct political party. This application of the word is American, no doubt; but Halliwell gives the word itself as a North British provincialism.

HURRICANE.

"The dreadful spout which shipmen do the hurricano call."—*Troilus and Cressida,* 5.2.172 (1606).

HUSH UP—Be quiet.

"Resolved to have all things hushed up."—*Hayward's Eromena,* 125 (1632).

HYPO—Abbreviation of *hypochondria.*

"A treatise of the hypochondriac passion vulgarly called the hypo."—*Bernard de Mandeville, title of work* (1711).

## I

ICE CREAM.

"All such fruits, ice creams, &c., as the season afforded."—*London Gazette,* 2383 (1688).

ILL—Vicious.

Murray says this use of the word is obsolete except in dialects, which implies that it is old British.

ILLY for ill.

A gross blunder, of course, but not an American blunder. Murray has a British citation of 1549.

IMMENSE—Very fine.

"Here's cream, damned fine, immense."—*Gentleman's Magazine,* 86.2 (1762).

IMPROVE land by erecting buildings on it.

Murray calls this "the ancient sense" of the verb, adding that this "was retained in 17th–18th c. in the American colonies," apparently supposing that it has gone out of use here.

IN for into: "We get in the stage."

"And brought him home with him in his country."—*Chaucer, Knight's Tale,* 11 (1386).

IN as noun—Person holding a position.

"There will be something patched up between the ins and the outs."—*Chesterfield, Letters,* 4.379.201 (1764).

IN OUR MIDST.

"If we could have had Dr. Bell in our midst."—*Southey, Life of Bell,* 1.205 (1794).

INDEBTEDNESS.

"To profess my deep indebtedness unto you."—*Rev. John Trapp, Commentary, Epistle Dedicatory* (1647).

INFAIR, INFARE—Reception party of newly married couple.

"He brought his wife to his house in the old town, where there was a goodly infare."—*Spalding, Charles First,* 2.54 (1670).

INSTITUTION—Any prevalent practice.

"His lordship a lecture addressed to the children. This institution I greatly admire."—*Dr. Beatty to Sir Wm. Forbes, Elegant Epistles* (1784).

INSURRECT.

"They mean to insurrect here."—*Byron, Diary, Jan.* 9, 1821.

INTERVIEW as a verb.

"Their friends exhorted them to interview."—*Hall's Chronicle, Henry VI,* 175 (1548).

INVOLVEMENT—State of being involved.

"Orpheus, within the folds and involvements of fables, hid the mysteries of his doctrine."—*Mythomystes,* 30 (1630).

IRRUPT—To appear suddenly.

Defined in Hyde Clarke's English Grammar and Dictionary (1858). Merely variant of the old British word "erupt."

INWARDNESS—Interest, purpose—so Bartlett.

"His fables had no such inwardness in his own meaning."—*Bacon, Advancement of Learning,* 2.4 (1605).

IRONWEED—A plant.

"Ironweed, content to share the meanest spot that spring can spare."—*John Clare, Shepherd's Calendar,* 47 (1827).

ISLAND—Anything surrounded by flat land, as if the latter were water.

"The pillars standing in island as we say, the work could not securely bear a roof."—*I. Jones, Stonehenge,* 53 (17th *Century*).

ITEM—Information.

"Getting item thereof, he departed."—*Hearne, Duct. Hist.,* 2.14 (1704).

## J

JAB—To strike or thrust at.

Defined in Jamieson's Dictionary (1825) with citation, "Ettrick Shepherd."

JACK AT A PINCH—As a last resort.

Defined by Halliwell.

JACKSTRAWS.

"Condescendingly to look at a game of jackstraws."—*Edgeworth, Belinda,* 19 (1801).

JAM of logs.

Perfectly natural application, without the slightest change in meaning, of an old word, familiar in Great Britain.

JAY—Greenhorn, or other person regarded as contemptible.

"The intending larcenist will strike up a conversation with a likely-looking jay."—*Pall Mall Gazette, Dec.* 29 1884.

JEANS—Coarse clothing material.

Merely variant of the old English geanes.

JEOPARDIZE—Jeopard.

"We jeopardize our soul's safety."—*N. Barnet, Growth in Grace,* 47 (1646).

JEW or JEW DOWN—To cheat, overreach, insistently beat down price.

"Is it that way you jewed one?"—*Ingoldsby Legends* (1845).

JIBBER—Balky horse.

Defined in Halliwell as occurring in "various dialects" of Great Britain.

JIGAMAREE—Trivial thing.

Defined in Halliwell, though he says it means "a manœuvre."

JIGGER—An insect.

Merely a (possibly American) corruption of *chigoe* or *chego,* used in England at least as far back as 1691.

JIMMY—Burglar's implement.

"Jemmy, a crow used by housebreakers."—*Lexicon Balatronum* (1811).

JOG—Projection from straight line or even surface.

"The beginnings are rude till the jogs are rubbed off."—*Translation of Panciroli, Rerum Memorabilium* (1715).

JOSEY—Woman's outer garment.

"Joseph," in the same sense, is as old as 1659 in England.

JOUNCE—To shake.

Defined in Promptorium Parvulorum (1440).

JUDAS TREE. Given as synonym of *Cercis* in Lee's Botany App. 316 (1760).

JUDICIARY, noun.

The special application of this word to all judges collectively may have begun in the United States, but the practice of using it as a noun in various meanings dates back in Great Britain at least to the 16th Century.

JUG—Jail.

"He shall be kept in the stone jug like a gentleman."—*Oliver Twist*, 43 (1837).

JUMP A CLAIM—Disregard it.

"Claims are jumped daily."—*Melbourne Argus, March* 21, 1854.

JUNK—Miscellaneous second-hand stuff.

Simply extension of the use of the word for old rope, current in England for centuries.

## K

KEELER—Tub for household purposes.

The "Promptorium Parvulorum" has *kelare* as translation of *frigidarium.*

KEEP—Keep shop.

Special application of intransitive, or semi-transitive (the object being suppressed), use of the verb that was common in the literature of the 16th Century.

KEY—Flat, generally small, island.

"These islands, or keys as we call them."—*Dampier, Voyages,* 1.22 (1697).

KICK—Object.

"Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice?"—*First Samuel,* II.29 *A. V.* (1611).

KID—Child.

"I am old, you say; yes, parlous old, kids."—*Middleton & Massinger, Old Law,* 3.2 (1599).

KIND O'—Somewhat.

So defined in Moor's Suffolk Dictionary, London, 1823.

KINK—Accidental twist in a rope.

Said by Halliwell to be a northern provincialism of Great Britain.

KIT—Baggage.

"The kit is the contents of his knapsack."—*Grose.*

KNEE—Piece of timber naturally formed in bracket shape.

Murray has British citation of 1497, and another, less conclusive, of 1352.

KNOB—Round knoll.

"The ground is said to rise up in a round knob."—*Worcester's Apophthegms,* 30 (1650).

KNOCK DOWN—Assign to bidder at an auction.

"It was knocked down to the last bidder."—*C. Johnson, Chrysal,* 3.205 (1760).

KNOCK-KNEED.

Defined by Davies, with citation from Sir Henry Taylor, "St. Clement's Eve."

## L

LAGOON—Sound or channel.

Used from time immemorial by English-speaking visitors at Venice, first in the Italian form, *laguna,* 1612, then *lagune,* 1697, and in the present spelling at least as far back as Capt. Cook's Journal of 1769.

LAMBASTE—To beat.

"Stand off a while and see how I'll lambaste him."—*Jones & Davenant, Britannia Triumphans,* 18 (1637).

LANDSCAPIST—Painter of landscapes.

"The professed landscapists of the Dutch school."—*Ruskin, Modern Painters,* 2.1.7 (1843).

LANDSHARK—Dishonest taker of advantage of poverty.

Defined by Davies, with citation from Kingsley's "Two Years Ago."

LATHY—Slender.

"A lean, lathie man."—*Wood, Life* (1672).

LAW DAY—Court day.

Used in England, in the spelling *laghdaghes,* in 1235, *lawdayis* in 1444, and in the modern spelling in 1467.

LAWING—Going to law.

"I fear lest there be found among you lawing."—*Tindale's II Cor.* XII.20 (1526).

LEASTWAYS—At least.

"That at the least way the shadow of Peter."—*Tindale, Acts* V.15.

LIKELY (men or animals)—Pleasing, handsome, promising.

Murray gives citations of this use of the word, covering every sense in which it is ever heard in this country, from the 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries, the earliest dated 1454, the latest 1883.

LIMSY—Weak, flexible, limp.

Limpsy is defined as flaccid in Forby's "East Anglia Vocabulary" (1825).

LIVE—Quick, active—so Farmer.

This abbreviation of *alive* has long been in use, in every American sense, by British writers.

LOAN OFFICE.

"Subscriptions for erecting loan offices."—*London Gazette,* 5859 (1720).

LOCATE—"To place, to set in a particular spot"—so Bartlett.

"This was amongst the motives that led me to locate myself at Tunbridge Wells."—*Cumberland, Memoirs,* 2.186 (1807).

LOGGERHEAD—Long piece of iron, clubbed at the end.

Occurs in a survey of London published in 1687.

LOGICIZE—To reason.

"I can't logicize, but I'll pilfer with any."—*Blackwood*, 38.525 (1835).

LUCIFER MATCH.

"The plaintiff invented another match, which he designated with the name of lucifer."—*John Bull, Nov.* 28, 1831.

LYCEUM—Literary association or the place where it meets.

"A literary establishment has been opened at Paris under the title of the Lyceum."—*Gentleman's Magazine*, 56.1.262 (1786).

LYNCH LAW.

The Pall Mall Gazette, as quoted in the New York Tribune of Jan. 27, 1881, says this expression owes its origin to a Mayor Lynch of Glasgow, who near the end of the 15th Century hanged a murderer with his own hands.

## M

MAD—Angry.

So used in England as far back as Cursor Mundi, 1320, not to speak of comparatively modern writers like Pepys. So defined in Ash's Dictionary, 1795.

MAKE-UP—1. The whole as distinguished from the several parts.

"Some distinctions in the make-up of French and English minds."—*Examiner,* 708 (1821).

2. An actor's personal adornments.

"The zouaves, with their make-up as women."—*George Eliot, in Cross Life,* 2.61 (1858).

3. Arrangement of type in form.

"This is the make-up of the third and fourth sheets of the magazine."—*Smedley, Lewis Arundel,* 15 (1852).

MANOR—"Land occupied by tenants who pay rent to proprietor"—so Bartlett.

Fancy calling this an Americanism! It has been in continuous use in England for centuries.

MANSARD ROOF.

Defined in Builder's Dictionary (1734).

MATERIALIZE.

"Virgil having materialized, if I may so call it, a scheme of abstracted notions."—*Addison, Tatler,* 154 (1710).

MEADOW—Land on which grass is raised for hay.

So used in Great Britain from time immemorial. So defined in the first English dictionary intended to include "the generality of words," Bailey, 1721.

MEAN—Poor, bad, worthless.

"Piers Plowman," 6.185 (1377), refers to "mean ale."

MEETING—Religious assembly.

"Sept. 24, being Lord's day, he was going home from the meeting."—*W. Hubbard, Narrative,* 2.51 (1677).

MEETING-HOUSE—Place of worship.

"There was a concourse of people at the Dissenters' meeting-house."—*Evelyn, Diary, April* 10, 1687.

MEND in phrase "on the mend"—Convalescent.

So used by Coleridge, as quoted by Mrs. Sanford, "T. Poole," 277 (1802).

MERCHANDIZE as verb.

"And said to them, 'Merchandize till I come.' "—*Wyclif, Luke* XIX.13 (1382).

MERCHANT—Small shopkeeper.

"A peddling shopkeeper that sells a pennyworth of thread is a merchant."—*Burt, North Scotland,* 1.66 (1730).

MESS—Quantity.

"You have very good strawberries; I require you to let us have a mess of them."—*Sir Thos. More, Richard Third,* 46 (1513).

METHEGLIN—A beverage.

"Metheglin, which is most used in Wales, is hotter than mead."—*Sir Thos. Elyot, Castle of Health,* 36 (1533).

MISERY—Bodily pain.

So defined in Forby's Vocabulary of East Anglia (1825).

MISRECOLLECT—Remember wrongly.

"If I do not misrecollect, I remember instances."—*Bentham, Defense of Usury,* 6.49 (1787).

MISREMEMBER—Forget.

"Misremembering one word."—*Sir Thos. More, Answer to Poisoned Book* (1533).

MISTAKE in phrase, "and no mistake"—Undoubtedly.

"He is the real thing and no mistake."—*Lady Sydney Morgan, Autobiography,* 15 (1818).

MOBOCRACY.

"Another mode of civil policy, which cannot be called by a better name than mobocracy."—*Murphy, Gray's Inn Journal,* 95 (1754).

MOLASSES—Treacle.

British writers have *melasus* (1582), *molassos* (1588), *malassos* (1599), *molossos* (1663), *melasses* (1731), and the present spelling as early as 1764.

MOONRISE.

"A luminous arch which extended itself almost from sunset to moonrise."—*Philosophical Transactions,* 35.454 (1728).

MOONSHINE (liquor)—Surreptitiously made without paying tax, or imported without paying duty.

Defined by Grose.

MORPHODITE—Hermaphrodite.

"She was little better than a morphodite."—*Vanbrugh, Provoked Wife,* 4.3 (1706).

MORTAL—Very.

"The peril is so mortal strong."—*John Lydgate, Reason and Sense,* 3665 (1407).

MOST—Vulgar contraction of almost.

"Her forehead was most covered with her hat."—*Lady Wroth, Urania,* 541 (1621).

MOURNSOME—Mournful.

"A noise very loud and mournsome."—*Lorna Doone,* 3 (1869).

MOVE—Change one's residence.

"He was afterwards the occasion of his leaving college and moving towards London."—*Bishop Patrick, Autobiography,* 244 (1707).

MUDDLE—Confusion.

Defined as "a confused or turbid state" in Todd's Dictionary (1818).

MUDSILL—Foundation timber laid on or in the earth.

A manuscript estimate of repairs for a bridge in Essex, England, 1741, includes an item for "mudsells 19 foot long."

MULATTO.

Earliest known use of this word (which seems to have been adapted, by European explorers, from the Spanish *mulato,* young mule, hence one of mixed race) is in Drake's "Voyages," 1595.

MUMBLEPEG—Child's game.

"Nor scourge-top, nor trusse, nor leap-frog, nor nine-holes, nor mumble-the-peg."—*Hawkins, Apollo Shroving, Prologue,* 5 (1627).

MUSKMELON.

Correction of Tusser's *muskmillion,* "Husbandry," 94 (1573).

MUSS—Squabble.

Said to be old British by a writer in the Nation, 5.428, Nov. 28, 1867.

MUX—Mess.

"My mother and Snowe had muxed up everything."—*Lorna Doone,* 62. (Earlier American citations can be given, of course; but Blackmore's use of the word seems to establish it as an old Devonshire provincialism.)

## N

NABBER—Thief.

So defined in Jamieson.

NANKEEN.

"Make his trousers of nankeen."—*Percy Society, Songs on Costume,* 239 (1755).

NATIONAL—Relating to the nation at large.

"The civil and national laws of any country."—*Howson, Sermons,* Dec. 24, 1597.

NECK—Peninsula.

"Upon the innermost neck to the landward."—*Eden, Decade of Voyages,* 352 (1555).

NE'ER—No; not.

"There's ne'er a gentleman in the county has the like humors."—*Jonson, Every Man out of His Humor,* 2.1 (1599).

NEGATIVE—To veto.

"Having obtained the outlines of a treaty, negativing it would not carry."—*Earl Malmesbury, Diaries,* 1.194 (1778).

NEVER SAY DIE—Do not despair.

Used by Nancy Sikes, "Oliver Twist," Chap. 26.

NEWSY—Full of news.

"Mille graces for a newsy letter."—*Jekyll, Correspondence,* 9.304 (1832).

NICE—Fair, good, agreeable.

"I intend to take a nice walk."—*Miss Carter, Letters,* 2.34 (1769).

"The nice letter which I have received from you."—*Jane Austen, Letters,* 1.126 (1796).

"Whom my aunt asserted to be a very nice woman."—*Anne Brontè, Agnes Grey,* 1 (1847).

NIGGER—Negro.

"How graceless Ham laughed at his dad, which made Canaan a nigger."—*Robert Burns, Ordination,* 4 (1786).

Word used repeatedly by Carlyle and Thackeray, and at least once by Ruskin, "Laws of Fesole," Chap. 6. You will hardly find it in any American writer of any such standing as either of these great Britons.

NIP—A drink.

Defined by Grose.

NIPPER—A drink.

Contraction of nipperkin, which is at least as old in Great Britain as Mrs. Behan's "Amorous Prince," 1671.

NIPPING—Mincing.

"So nipping, so tripping, so cocking, so crowing."—*Jacob and Esau,* 2.2 (1578).

NOBBY—Stylish.

"The herds of mony a knabby laird, war's training for the shambles."—*Picken, Poems,* 178 (1788).

"I'll meet your wishes respecting this matter and the nobbiest way of keeping it quiet."—*Bleak House,* 54 (1852).

NOGGIN—A drink.

"Every one that treats him with a noggin of cool nants."—*Humors of the Town,* 101 (1693).

NOHOW—By no means, generally used ungrammatically, to strengthen previous negative.

"You don't call that justice nohow."—*Douglas Jerrold, St. Giles,* 10.98 (1851).

NOODLES—Preparation of vermicelli.

"Noodle soup, made with veal with lumps of bread."—*Lady Mary Coke, Journal,* 3.243 (1779).

NOONING—1. Noontide, hour beginning at noon.

Occurs in "Towneley Mysteries," 24.65 (1460).

2. Midday luncheon.

"Seven constant ordinaries every night, noonings and intermealiary lunchings."—*Browne, Mad Couple,* 7.2 (1652).

NOTIFY a person—Give notice or information to (the English being supposed always to make the notice or information the direct object, to notify something to a man, whereas we notify the man of the thing).

"If any appointment be broken and the king be notified thereof."—*Wars in France* (1440).

"The clatter of hoofs notified the concierge that Baron Grandesella's family were on the point of arrival."—*Olyphant, Altiora Peto,* 1.66 (1883).

NOTIONAL—Whimsical.

"The old dogmatists and notional speculators."—*Power, Exp. Phil.,* 3.193 (1664).

NOTIONS—Small wares.

"Notions framed in foreign looms."—*Young, Night Thoughts, Night* 2 (1742).

## O

OBLIGATE.

"My station obligates me to render obedience to her commands."—*Athenaeum, June* 2, 1668.

OBLIGEMENT.

"This I would endure, to cancel my obligements to him."—*Dryden, Rival Ladies,* 2.2 (1664).

OBSOLESCENT.

Used by Johnson, s. v. *hereout.*

OBTUSITY.

"A terrible thing obtusity of sight would be to me."—*Scott, Fam. Letters,* 2.19.165 (1823).

OF after gerund.

"Not the clothing or feeding of Christ but the housing of him."—*Donne, Sermons,* 4.9.171 (1631).

OF after verbs of sensation.

"She smelled of it and ate it."—*Defoe, Robinson Crusoe,* 1.4 (1719).

OFFICE—"Small house or hut to accommodate overflow of family"—so Clapin.

"To be sold, a freehold house, with attached and detached offices of every description."—*London Times, June* 28, 1798.

OLEOMARGARINE.

The first known use of this word was by a French chemist, Berthelot, in 1854.

ONCE—As soon as.

"Once I had got it, it was easy to unlock her breast."—*Frances Sheridan, Sidney Biddulph,* 2.96 (1761).

ONCE AND AGAIN—Sometimes, repeatedly.

"Once and again iterated."—*J. King, Jonas,* 642 (1597).

OPERATE.

Used in England, in every sense in which we ever employ this verb, from early in the 17th Century.

ORATE—Make a speech.

"Oh, let it be lawful for me to orate."—*Timon,* 2.4.32 (1600).

ORDINARY—Homely, not handsome.

"There is those that do it for four shillings apiece, but very ordinary work."—*Primatt, City and C. Build.,* 71 (1667).

ORPHANAGE—Orphan asylum.

"There is an orphanage in which there are forty children."—*London Standard, Feb.* 7, 1865.

ORTS—Refuse fodder.

In "Promptorium Parvulorum" (1440).

OUT—Unfavorable condition or feeling.

"Launcelot and I are out."—*Merchant of Venice,* 3.5.34 (1598).

OUT—To take or put out.

"The lord by knight's service might have outed a farmer."—*Kitchin, Courts Leet,* 261 (1598).

OUTSIDER—Person not in a party or an organization.

"There was a whist and a casino table, and six outsiders."—*Jane Austen, Letters,* 1.245 (1800).

OVER a signature. "Used in a very appropriate manner, as 'to write a letter over one's signature,'" says Clapin. I disagree as to the propriety of the usage. It seems to me that one makes a statement under his signature, whatever may be the relative position of statement and signature on the paper, exactly as a soldier fights under a certain flag though he may be on a mountain top and the colors in the valley far below him, or as a man does business under a certain firm name, though his sign may be on the first floor and his shop on the second. Be that as it may, the expression was first used in England, so far as is known. It occurs in "Notes and Queries," 2d Series, 4.87 (1857).

OVER AND ABOVE—Very, very much.

"Mrs. Blifil was not over and above pleased."—*Fielding, Tom Jones,* 3.6 (1749).

OVERCOAT—The English greatcoat or topcoat.

Defined in Craig's Dictionary, 1848.

OVERLY—Excessively.

Occurs in Wolfstan's 13th Homily, early in 11th Century.

OVERRUN—Run over hastily.

Bartlett's only citation is from the New York Tribune, June 16, 1849: "Rapp's community was lately overrun by a traveller." One of Murray's definitions of the word, with citations of 1000, 1300, 1538, 1577 and 1656, is: "To pass in rapid review, glance through rapidly."

OVERTURE, verb—Propose.

"It had become you rather to have overtured a way."—*True Nonconformist*, 100 (1671).

OYSTER PLANT.

"Mertensia maritima is called oyster plant."—*Hogg, Vegetable Kingdom*, 542 (1858).

PANCAKE.

P

Used in "Two Cookery Books," 1.45 (1430).

PANIER—Bustle.

"The excrescences worn on the back are spoken of as paniers."—*Punch, July* 31, 1869.

PARAGRAPHIST.

"Every paragraphist is noticing the advantages which await the issue."—*Spirit Public Journals*, 2.350 (1798).

PEAKY—Sickly looking.

A correspondent of the London Times says this word is the purest old Devonshire.

PEDDLE—"Sell anything in small quantities"—so Clapin.

"The best trade that can be driven is only a sort of peddling."—*Philosophical Transactions*, 17.792 (1688).

PELTRY—Raw skins of wild animals, with fur on.

"They bring all manner of peltry."—*Fortescue, Works*, 553 (1451).

PERMIT—Written permission.

"The goods shall be again visited and the permit examined."—*Book of Rates*, 122 (1714).

PERNICKITY—Fastidious.

Defined in Jamieson.

PETTIFOG as a transitive verb.

Cotgrave's French-English Dictionary (1611) defines: "*Chicaner*, to wrangle or pettifog it."

PICK—To select.

Used by Gower, "Confessio Amantis," 1.296 (1390).

PICK—"A thread; the quality of the cloth is denoted by the number of picks it has to the inch"—so Bartlett.

Clearly only an extension of the old British use of the word to indicate a throw of the shuttle.

PIGEONHOLE—Receptacle for documents.

"I put the papers into a pigeonhole in the cabinet."—*Transactions Society of Arts*, 2.156 (1789).

PIKER—"Cautious gambler," says Clapin. I think it is slang for a stingy person. It occurs, in the sense of thief, in "Piers Plowman" (1393).

PILE—Arrow.

Used, in various spellings, by British writers as early as the 11th Century.

PIMPING—Little, petty.

"Out of a little pimping corner of Britain."—*T. Brown, Saints in Uproar*, 1.77 (1687).

PINKY—The little finger.

Defined in Jamieson.

PITCH AND TOSS—A game.

"The germ of gambling sprouts in pitch and toss."—*Sir A. Boswell, Edinburgh*, 54 (1810).

PITCHER—"American for jug," says Farmer.

This Americanism may be found in British writers of the 13th and every subsequent century to the present time. I have tried in vain to ascertain what distinction is made between the two words by the English people who now call a milk pitcher a "jug" but make no scruple of saying that "little pitchers have big ears" or of speaking of the pitcher that went once too often to the well. It seems to me that we Americans do well to discriminate as we always do, a pitcher with us being a vessel of any material but having a comparatively wide mouth, perhaps covered but never tightly closed, whereas a jug is made of earthenware and has a small mouth intended for a cork or some other sort of stopper.

PITCH IN—To attack.

Defined in Halliwell.

PLANE TREE.

Used in Great Britain, and applied to several different plants, since the 15th Century.

PLANTAIN.

"I am exalted like a plantayne tree by the waterside."—*Coverdale, Ecclesiasticus,* 24.14 (1535).

PLANTATION—"Estate appropriated to the production of staple crops by slave labor"—so Bartlett.

Murray defines: "A settlement in a new or conquered country," with citation of 1614.

PLAY ACTOR.

"If play actors or spectators think themselves injured by any censure."—*Prynne, Histriomastix* (1663).

PLEASURE—As verb, to please.

"He meant to give sentence against her to pleasure the king."—*R. Hall, Life of Fisher* (1559).

PLUCK—"Heart, liver, lungs, &c., of slaughtered animal"—so Clapin.

So used in Cotgrave's French-English Dictionary (1611).

PLY—Sail back and forth.

"A detachment which plies between the Godavery and camp."—*Despatch of the Duke of Wellington* (1803).

POACH—Tread soft ground.

"The horses keeping the furrow, to avoid poaching the land."—*Plot, Oxfordshire,* 247 (1677).

POKE, often with prefix "slow"—Lazy person, dawdler.

"Do you think I can live, poking by myself?"—*Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility,* 2.3 (1796).

POKE—Bag.

Dates back in England at least to the 14th Century. Chaucer's "Reeve's Tale" has "two pigs in a poke."

POKE BONNET.

"Another street nuisance is your poke bonnet ladies."—*Hermit in London,* 92.5.35 (1820).

POKY—Dull, stupid.

Defined in Davies as "poor, shabby."

POLT—A blow.

Defined in Davies, with citation of 1800.

POMPION—Pumpkin.

"Pompions in May."—*Tusser, Husbandry,* 95 (1573).

POND. "We give this name," says Bartlett, "to collections of water in the interior country, which are fed by springs, and from which issues a small stream." I do not think the "small stream" necessary to constitute a pond in the American sense. Johnson defines: "A small pool or lake of water."

POORLY—Badly, ill.

"Some cattle wax faint and look poorly."—*Tusser, Husbandry,* 79 (1573).

POP—Pistol.

So defined by Defoe, "Street Robberies," 33 (1728).

POSH—Mud.

Defined in the English Dialect Dictionary.

POT HOLE.

"Eight feet of the workable stone may be considered free from pot holes."—*Civil Engineer's Journal,* 2.373 (1839).

POTTER in phrase "to potter round."

Defined in Craven Glossary (1828).

POTWALLOPER—Scullion.

First occurs, with slightly different meaning, in the 1769 edition of Defoe's "Tom," 2.2.2i.

PRAYERFULLY.

"They should prayerfully examine the question."—*Faber, Romanism,* 39 (1826).

PRECINCT—Subdivision of county or city.

In use in England, in practically the same sense, since the 15th Century.

PREDICATE "is constantly confounded with predict," says Bartlett. Truly it is; and so it was in England as far back as 1623, when Cockeram published his dictionary including the definition: "Predicate, to foretell."

PREFERENTIAL.

"Their preferential connection with this or that antecedent condition."—*Mayo, Popular Superstitions,* 76 (1849).

PRESIDENCY.

Given in Percival's Spanish Dictionary (1591) as translation of *presidencia.*

PRESIDENTIAL—Pertaining to a president. In this sense, says Bartlett, the word is an Americanism.

"A president of the law vaunted himself to have huddled up together two hundred strange places in a presidential law case."—*Florio, Montaigne,* 3.12.629 (1603).

PRESTIDIGITATE.

This verb may have been invented in the United States; but Southey used the noun *prestidigitateur* as an English word in the "Commonplace Book," 4.603 (1843).

PRETTY as a noun.

"Back to back, my pretties."—*Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer* (1773).

PRETZEL.

A word brought here from their mother country, exactly in its original form, by German immigrants.

PRIMP—"To dress up in a finical manner"—Bartlett.

"Just i' the newest fashion primped."—*Beattie, Parings,* 14 (1801).

It seems to me this word is merely a corruption of *prink,* which has been used in England in the same sense from the 16th Century.

PROFESSOR OF RELIGION—Communicant.

Prof. Lounsbury says (International Review, 8.5.482)

that "the word with this meaning can be found in the greatest of Milton's prose treatises."

PROPERLY—Very much.

"Such variety of pictures that I was properly confounded."—*Pepys, June* 24, 1664.

PUBLISHMENT.

"The cardinal rebuked them by open publishment."—*Fabyan's Chronicle,* 7.229.259 (1494).

PULL THROUGH—Narrowly escape disaster.

"I shall pull through, my dear."—*Bleak House,* 37 (1852).

PULPITEER—Preacher.

"By the incitement of these fiery pulpiteers."—*Howell, Twelve Treatises,* 16 (1642).

PUNY—Weak.

"A puny subject strikes at thy great glory."—*Richard Second,* 3.2.86 (1593).

PUSH—Party, combination of men, "crowd."

"A push, alias an accidental crowd of people."—*Higgin, True Disciple,* 13 (1718).

PUT, PUT OFF, PUT OUT—Start, go, depart. Said of a ship or a man.

"My honest friend had hoisted sail and put to sea today."—*Comedy of Errors,* 5.1.21 (1590).

"They did shoot such abundance of arrows that they made our men put off."—*Lichefield, Castanheda's East Indies,* 1.79.162 (1582).

"If any ship put out, then straightway."—*Comedy of Errors,* 3.2.190.

PUT-UP JOB—Swindle or robbery carefully prearranged.

"At least it can't be a put-up job."—*Oliver Twist,* 19 (1838).

## Q

QUASHIE—Negro. Who ever heard an American use this term?

"Quashie himself, or a company of free blacks."—*M. Scott, Tom Cringle,* 246 (1833).

QUIT (with gerund expressed or understood)—To stop.

"Persons who rent seats, after they quit sitting in them."—*Liverpool Municipal Records,* 2.166 (1754).

QUITE in such phrases as "quite a while," "quite a house."

"It is quite a pleasing retirement."—*Toldewy, Two Orphans,* 3.49 (1756).

"Quite a comfortable dwelling."—*Southey, Letters,* 1.84 (1799).

(The senseless expression "quite a few," meaning not very few but a considerable number, is believed to be an Americanism, humiliating as it is to an American to make the confession.)

## R

RACKER—"A kind of pacing horse"—Bartlett.

"One old racking nag."—*Richmond, Wills,* 166 (1562).

RAIL—Part of a fence.

"For sawing reyles to the pale."—*Nottingham Records,* 3.272 (1494).

RAILROAD—Railway.

"It seems practicable to carry the coals upon a railroad."—*Smeatin, Report,* 2.411 (1775).

RAISE—Cause to grow, rear, as said of plants, animals and children.

"Your railroad is only a device for making the world smaller."—*Ruskin, Modern Painters,* 3.4.17 (1856).

"The alaternus is raised from seeds."—*Worlidge, Agriculture,*" 99 (1669).

"Directions when to raise up goslings."—*Massinger, City Madam,* 2.2 (1632).

"The child is the picture of his father, and she would endeavor to raise it for his sake."—*Bishop, Life and Adventures,* 268 (1744).

RAKEHELLY—Intensely bad.

"The rakehelly route of our ragged rhymes."—*Spenser, Shepherd's Calendar, Dedication* (1579).

RANGE—Ground over which ranging is possible.

"Sir Launcelot came into the range."—*Malory, Arthur,* 10.41 (1470).

RARE (meat)—Not cooked brown.

Defined as "underdone" in Dictionary of Isle of Wight Dialect.

RATTLETRAP—Something shaky and of little value.

"She used to go round with these rattletraps."—*Goody Two Shoes,* 2.27 (1766).

RAVE—Part of vehicle.

Occurs in Palsgrave's French Dictionary (1530).

RAZEE—Something (originally a vessel) cut down.

"The captain of a twenty-four razee."—*Sir R. Wilson, Life,* 1.4.216 (1803).

REACH—Part of a vehicle.

"The reach is the most important portion."—*Routledge's Boy's Annual,* 478 (1868).

READ OUT—Expel.

The first known use of this phrase is in a sermon by an English divine, John Hunt, 1865.

REAL—Very.

"An opportunity of doing a real good office."—*J. Fox, Wanderer,* 17.116 (1718).

RECOMMEND, noun—Commendation.

*Recommendum* is used in the same sense in Nashe's Lenten Stuffe, Harleiian Miscellanies, 6.180 (1599). The anglicized form, in a curious combination of singular and plural, the writer speaking of "a recommends to a friend," appears in Webster's "The Devil's Law Case," 2.1 (1623).

RECOUP.

"The defendant shall recoup the third part of the profits."—*Coke on Littleton,* 39 (1628).

RECOUPMENT.

"Recoupment in its original sense was a mere right of reduction."—*Waterman, Law of Set-Off,* 468 (1869).

RED TAPE—Tedious official routine.

"One intellect still really human and not redtapish."—*Carlyle, Latterday Pamphlets,* 3.94 (1850).

REHASH.

"Ulric is the Giaour rehashed."—*Maginn, Byron's Werner,* 2.1.148 (1822).

RELAND. Go on shore after having embarked.

"After they had delivered their cargo and relanded in the port of London."—*Life of N. Frowde,* 39 (1773).

RELIABLE.

"Their judgment to be as reliable as if given by the Lords of Session."—*Privy Council of Scotland,* 1.667 (1569).

REMIND—Remember.

"Let him remind what attributes were given."—*Wither,* Vox Pacif., 189 (1645).

RENCH—Mispronunciation of *rinse.*

Said by Halliwell to be northern dialect.

RENDITION—Rendering, surrendering.

"His rendition afterward to the Scotch army."—*Milton, Eikonoklastes* (1649).

RENEWEDLY.

"I declare renewedly my firm resolution."—*Richardson, Clarissa Harlowe,* 2.336 (1748).

REOPEN.

"Roots can penetrate no farther into it unless it is reopened by tillage."—*Tully, Horse-Hoeing Husbandry,* 1.8 (1733).

REPETITIOUS.

"The great charter is comprehensive and repetitious."—*Penn, Eng. Pres. Int.*, 17 (1675).

REPROBACY.

"God smiteth these sinners with reprobacy of mind."—*Trapp, Hebrews*, 6.8 (1647).

REQUISITION.

"If either recover from France places belonging to the other, he shall upon requisition restore them."—*Herbert, Henry VIII*, 117 (1648).

RESEARCHER. Investigator.

Used on title page of Maxwell's "Admirable Prophecies" (1615).

RESIDENTER—Resident.

"The justice-deputs were not ordinar residenters in town."—*Mackenzie, Criminal Laws of Scotland*, 2.8.1 (1678).

RESOLVE, noun—Resolution.

"A short vote or resolve of this house would haply give satisfaction."—*Burton's Diary*, 1.270 (1656).

RESULT—Decision of a council.

"If our proposals once again were heard, we should compel them to a quick result."—*Paradise Lost*, 6.619 (1667).

RESURRECT.

"As fast as we knock them on the head, this Tunestrick resurrects them."—*Annual Register*, 174.1 (1772).

RETIRACY.

"I enjoy a considerable portion of retiracy."—*F. A. Kemble, Later Life*, 2.228 (1842).

RETROSPECT—To look back at something.

"You and I have often retrospected the faces and minds of grown people."—*Richardson, Clarissa Harlowe,* 2.8 (1748).

RICH—Highly amusing.

"What a rich scene of this would thy exquisite powers make!"—*Sterne, Tristram Shandy,* 4.7 (1760).

RIDE-AND-TIE—Said of two persons who use the same horse by turns, one riding ahead a certain distance and then tying the horse and leaving him for the other.

"Mr. Adams discharged the bill, and they set out, having agreed to ride and tie."—*Fielding, Joseph Andrews,* 2.2 (1742).

RIDER—Supplement to a bill, added with the hope of thus securing enactment which could not be obtained separately.

"Col. B. carried a rider, as it is called, being a clause to be added at the last reading."—*Roger North, Examen,* 3.6.60 (1734).

RIGHT—Very, as in phrase, "it rains right hard."

Occurs in the A. V., Psalm 139.14, and in constant use in Great Britain in such phrases as "right honorable" and "right reverend," whereas in the United States it is only a southern colloquialism.

To RIGHTS—Immediately.

"Mr. Coventry and us two did discourse with the duke a little, and so to rights home again."—*Pepys' Diary, June* 8, 1663.

To RIGHTS—In order.

So defined in Dictionary of Isle of Wight Dialect, and so used in the "Antiquary," Chap. 3.

RIGHT UP—To set in order.

"Having there wrighted up such ships of his."—*Ussher, Annals,* 391 (1656).

RIP—Move with force or speed; "let her rip."

"The sweeping scythe now rips along."—*Bloomfield, Farmer's Boy, Summer,* 141 (1798).

ROARER.

"Thou hast delivered me from roreris."—*Wyclif, Ecclesiasticus,* 51.4 (1388). That "roreris" is *roarers* appears from the Douay version, which reads: "From them that did roar."

ROGUE—Plant not up to type.

"The rogues, as they call the plants that deviate from the proper standard."—*Darwin, Origin of Species,* 1.32 (1859).

ROOSTER—Cock.

Said by a writer in Harper's Monthly, April, 1883, p. 165, to be an old Sussex provincialism.

ROSTER—List of officers or the like.

"As each nation had a different number of battalions, their duty was regulated by a roster."—*Bland, Military Discipline,* 19.207 (1727).

ROTE—Sound of surf.

"While the sea's rote doth ring their doleful knell."—*Niccols, England's Eliza,* 270.837 (1610).

ROUGHS—Rowdies.

"There'll be policemen to control the roughs."—*Barham, Life and Letters,* 2.39 (1837).

ROUNDABOUT—Boy's jacket.

"To wear their light nankeen trousers and gingham roundabouts."—*Marryat, Monsieur Violet,* 44 (1844).

ROUND UP (animals)—Gather together.

"We rounded up the cattle till the moon should rise."—*C. Sturt, Central Australia,* 1.228 (1847).

ROUSER—"Something very exciting or very great," says Bartlett. Obviously so called because it rouses attention or rouses sleepy listeners. In the literal sense, the word has been in use in England for centuries, and is still in use.

RUBBER—Caoutchouc.

Howard's New Royal Encyclopedia, 1788, says that caoutchouc "is popularly called rubber." This is first known instance of this use of the word.

RUINATION.

This noun may be an American invention; but the verb *ruinate* is at least as old as the 16th Century in England. *Ruination* is in Latham's Dictionary, marked "rare or obsolete." Davies says: "I should have thought it common enough and in every-day use."

RUN—Small stream.

"Chiefly U. S. and northern dialects," says Murray, giving Scotch citations as old as 1581.

## S

SAFE—1. Iron box for keeping valuables.

"A pen knife and a letter were found lying near the safe, as if they had been lost by the robber."—*Bethune, Scotch Peasant,* 70 (1328).

2. Box for provisions.

Used in "Promptorium Parvulorum."

SAPPY—Silly.

Defined in Moor's Suffolk Glossary (1823).

SARCOPHAGUS—"Leaden coffin"—so Farmer (copied by Clapin) erroneously, the term always indicating a coffin or the image of a coffin made of stone, just as the word has been used in England for centuries.

"Several sarcophagi that had enclosed the ashes of men."—*Addison, Italy,* 198 (1705).

SAUCE—Impudence.

Defined in Halliwell, "various dialects."

SAY-SO—Unsupported assertion.

"They are only say-soes and no proof."—*Heylin, Lincoln,* 1.49 (1637).

SCARE—Fright, panic, stampede.

Defined by Davies. Occurs in Holland's "Livy," 8.37.308 (1600).

SCATTERING—Scattered.

"A small village, inhabited in scattering wise."—*Holland, Camden's Britannia,* 1.439 (1610).

SCHNAPPS—Gin, or similar liquor.

"Enjoy your schnaps."—*Blackwood's Magazine,* 3.403 (1818).

SCIENTIST.

Seems (from the way in which he uses the word, in Introduction to "Philosophy of Inductive Sciences") to have been invented about 1840 by Dr. William Whewell of Cambridge University.

SCOOT—Run, decamp.

"I set him a-scouting like a lusty fellow."—*Capt. Tyrrell, Annual Register,* 2 (1758).

SCRABBLE—Fight.

This particular use may be American; but the word occurs in Matthew's Bible of 1537, First Samuel, 21.13.

SCRAP—Very small piece.

"Shreds, or scraps as they are called."—*Philosophical Transactions,* 80.367 (1790).

SCRATCHES—Disease of horses.

Given as translation of *arestin* in Percivall's Spanish Dictionary (1591).

SCREED—Long composition.

"Mr. Manson threatens a long screed of poetry."—*Ross, Helenore,* 7 (1789).

SCREWS in such phrases as "put on the screws," "turn the screws"—Bring pressure to bear on a person, compelling him to act against his will.

A despatch of the Duke of Wellington (1803) speaks of bringing "all the screws" to bear upon "this chief." Perhaps the reference is to the Inquisition and its thumbscrews.

SCREWSMAN—Picker of locks.

Defined in Vaux's Flash Dictionary (1812).

SCRIBBLEMENT—Writing.

"I am tired of this endless scribblement."—*Cowper, Letter to Unwin, Oct.* 20, 1784.

SCRINGE—To flinch, cower.

Defined in Forby's Vocabulary of East Anglia (1825).

SCRUFF—Nape of neck.

Defined as "northern" dialect in Grose's Provincial Dictionary (1790).

SCUFF—Rub feet on floor.

Defined as "western" dialect in Halliwell.

SCULDUGGERY—Wire pulling; fraud.

Doubtless only variant of old Scotch term spelled *sculdudry* by Jamieson.

SEALER—Inspector of merchandise or of weights and measures.

In use in Great Britain in acts of Parliament from the 15th century.

SEEDING—Sowing, especially of grass seed.

"The rent, sowing and seeding of an acre of rye."—*Kingsthorpiana,* 81 (1542).

SEEN—Saw (heard only among the very lowest classes).

Said by a writer in Harper's Monthly, 66.395. 665 (April, 1883) to be a Sussex vulgarism.

SEEP—Leak through fine pores.

"Rain seeps through the thack."—*A. Wilson, Brother Pedlar,* 173 (1790).

SELL—Practical joke; hoax; "take-in."

"Mr. Green having swallowed this, his friend was enabled not only to use up old sells but to draw on his invention for new ones."—*Verdant Green,* 1.7 (1853).

SENSATIONISM.

"In them we have sensationism pure and undisguised."—*Dean Mansel, Letters,* 242 (1863).

SENSATIONIST.

"The motto of the sensationists."—*W. H. Russell, London Times, Sept.* 24, 1861.

SERIOUS—Religious.

"Peter Bell, when he had been with fresh imported hell fire warmed, grew serious."—*Shelley, Peter Bell Third,* 1.1 (1819).

SET—Get stuck.

"When their wagons were set in bad roads."—*J. Clubbe, Tracts,* 1.83 (1756).

SET—Determined, firm.

"He was upon patience so set."—*Gower, Confessio Amantis,* 1.301 (1390).

SET BY, SET STORE BY, with variations—Value.

"Disdaining and setting light by other bathing vessels."—*Holland, Pliny,* 32.12 (1601).

"I set no great store by the circumstance."—*Dickens, American Notes,* 4.

SETBACK—Reverse, obstacle, hindrance.

"When he is about his work, how many setbacks doth he meet with!"—*Flavel, Husbandry Spiritualized,* 1.20 (1674).

SETTING POLE—Pole used for propelling boats.

Halliwell's sixth definition of the verb set is "to push, to propel." Naturally then a pole used for this purpose is a setting pole.

SETTLE—1. To be installed as pastor of a church.

"Mr. Chambers being now settled, the communicants could not be deprived of him."—*Wodrow, Correspondence,* 3.253 (1726).

2. To install a pastor.

"The presbytery having refused to settle the person presented by the patron."—*Boswell's Johnson, May* 1, 1773.

3. To pay a bill.

"Let us settle accounts; you'll see no more of my money."—*Foote, Commissary,* 1.26 (1765).

4. To kill.

"It settled him and set his spirit gone."—*Chapman, Iliad,* 13.587 (1611).

SETTLE ONE'S HASH—Give him his quietus.

"My master is engaged in settling the hash of your master."—*Muzzle to Trotter, Pickwick Papers,* 25 (1836).

SETTLER—Unanswerable proposition.

"This was a settler; I could make no answer."—*Hogg, Tales,* 5.221 (1817).





SHADOW—Follow closely.

"Thereupon he shadowed him up and down."—*Rowlands, Greene's Ghost,* 17 (1602).

SHAKE DICE.

"Dice are shaked."—*Googe, Popish Kingdoms,* 47 (1570).

SHAKERS.

"The new sect of Shakers."—*Scottish Mist Dispelled,* 17 (1648).

SHAKES, NO GREAT—Not of much importance.

"No great shakes at learned chat."—*Moore, Tom Crib,* 41 (1819).

SHAKINESS.

Bartlett's only citation is dated 1876. Fourteen years earlier, the Cornhill Magazine, 6.613, spoke of "shakiness of the hand."

SHAKY—Wavering, uncertain.

"Our director was what is not to be found in Johnson's Dictionary, rather shaky."—*Thackeray, Hoggarty Diamond,* 10 (1841).

SHARP—Bright fellow, sharper.

"The long list of sharps who advertise their tips."—*Pall Mall Gazette,* Sept. 10, 1865.

SHARP, adverb—Punctually.

"They should dine that day at 3 o'clock sharp."—*Thackeray, Shabby-genteel Story,* 3 (1840)

SHARP PRACTICE—Unscrupulous bargaining.

"The sharp practice of the world drives some logic into the most vague of men."—*Helps, Friends in Council,* 1.8 142 (1847).

SHAVE—Narrow escape.

"I seem to have had a shave, if indeed I have weathered the point yet."—*R. H. Froude, Reminiscences,* 1.381 (1834).

SHAVE—Take unfair advantage of, as by discounting notes at unreasonable usury.

"He measureth miserably to his servants, shaving and pinching them."—*Healey, Theophrastus,* 48 (1610).

"Brokers that shave poor men by Jewish interest."—*Dekker, Seven Deadly Sins,* 6.40 (1606).

SHAVER—Extortioner.

"I will not speak of thieves and shavers."—*Whitinton, Tully's Offices,* 3.144 (1534).

SHEATH KNIFE.

"She purchases a sheath knife."—*Carlyle, French Revolution,* 3.4.1 (1837).

SHEEENY—Sharp fellow, cheat, says Bartlett. I think this slang term means a Jew, as in England. The first known use of the word in this sense is in the "Spirit of the Public Journals," 85 (1824).

SHEER—Very thin.

"Tiffeny is the sheerest and cheapest lawn."—*Best, Farm Books,* 106 (1641).

SHELL (corn)—Remove grains from cob.

Only special application of term applied to lentils in England as long ago as 1652, it occurring in Turner's "Herbal," 2.33.

SHERRIVALLIES—Overalls.

"You find them to be breeches patched and not actually sherryvallies."—*Gen. C. Lee, Memoirs,* 430 (1778).

SHIFTY—Tricky.

Given as translation of Latin *astutus* by Levius (1570).

SHIMMY—Chemise.

Defined in Hereford Glossary (1839).

SHINDY—Spree, row.

"What a prime shindy, my messmates!"—*Egan, Life in London,* 10.248 (1821).

"Kicking up all sorts of shindies."—*Ingoldsby Legends, Series* 3, *Hermann* (1845).

SHINE—"Show, display, fine appearance."

"Which things have a shine of wisdom."—*Coverdale, Colossians,* 2.23 (1535).

"His name was well calculated to cut a shine."—*Metropolis,* 2.165 (1819).

SHINE—Distinguish one's self.

"An ambition to excel, or, as the term is, to shine, in company."—*Steele, Tatler,* 244 (1710).

SHINER—Kind of fish.

"Young mackerel are called shiners."—*Yarrell, British Fishes,* 1.124 (1836).

SHINGLE—"Wooden tile, used for roofing"—so Clapin.

Murray has citations as old as the 13th Century.

SHINNY—Boys' game.

Described in Brockett's "North Country Words."

SHOCK—Group of stalks or sheaves of grain.

Defined in "Promptorium Parvulorum."

SHODDY.

Only American as connoting ostentation. The word occurs in Thackeray's "Effects of Arts on Health," 67 (1832).

SHOOT—Shooting match.

"The prince is much pleased with his shoot this year." —*Hare, Two Noble Lives*, 1.360 (1852).

SHOOT (rapids)—Dash down in a vessel or on a raft.

"We turned down the river, shooting the overfalls."—*Harcourt, Guiana*, 49 (1613).

SHORTS—Small clothes; breeches.

"Another wanted to act the ghost in white shorts and a nightcap."—*Beaconsfield, Vivian Grey*, 1.3.7 (1826).

SHOVE—Hemp stalk.

"Flax and hemp are broken from the stalks into large shoves."—*Holme, Armory*, 3.285 (1688).

SHOVELLER—Kind of duck.

"The shovelar with his broad beak."—*Skelton, Sparowe*, 408 (1529).

SHOW—Opportunity; chance at something.

"Gie's a shaw o' your snuff horn."—*Picken, Poems*, 58 (1788).

SHOW OFF—Make a display.

"The display and show-off of the natural disposition." —*Pratt, Pupil of Pleasure*, 2.14 (1776).

SICK as a general term, not implying nausea.

To the remarks on p. 44 may be added the following quotation from a book called "The Difference between Words Esteemed Synonymous," published at Dublin in 1776, and it will be observed that the distinction drawn is precisely that which obtains in American practice: "The word *ill* is used when health is the least impaired; *sick*, when the body is greatly diseased; we say, when we find heaviness upon the spirits, or want of appetite, that we are ill; but when the whole frame is disordered, we say, 'he is sick.' "

SIDE HILL—Hillside

"Forty six acres of uplands or side-hill lands."—*London Gazette*, 4489 (1708).

SIDELING—Inclined to one side.

Murray gives citations from the 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries.

SIDEWALK—Walk for pedestrians, at side of driveway.

"The sidewalks for foot passengers are raised a foot above the carriageway."—*Labeleye, Westminster Bridge*, 69 (1739).

SIDEWIPE—Glancing blow, sometimes miscalled "sideswipe" by careless people.

"Your third paragraph is a mixture of sidewipes and friendly intimations."—*Mrs. Barbauld, Richardson*, 6.279 (1757).

SIDLE—Move sidewise.

"She could not bear to see her go sidle, sidle, to and fro."—*Vanbrugh, Æsop,* 3 (1697).

SIGNALIZE—To signal.

"They were signalizing their consort with lights."—*Byron, Letter to Muir, Jan.* 2, 1824.

SIN—Since.

"The bodies long sin destroyed and converted into powder."—*Caxton, Eneydos,* 12.44 (1490).

SINEWS—Money.

"These coins be called of wise men the sinews of war."—*Common Weal of England,* 87 (1550).

SING OUT—Shout lustily.

"'Port your helm,' sung out the boatswain."—*M. Scott, Tom Cringle,* 1 (1833).

SIRREE—Sir.

"I say, sirree, where be'st thee going?"—*Knight's Quarterly,* 1.300 (1823).

SISTERN—Sisters.

"You have the brethren, sistern and nephews."—*Wilson, Rhetoric,* 30 (1853).

SIT UP WITH—Court.

Defined in the Craven Glossary.

SIZZ, SIZZLE—Hiss, as from the action of fire.

"To siz, to hiss."—*Marshall, Yorkshire,* 2.352 (1788).

"Sizzle, the half hiss, half sigh of an animal."—*Moor, Suffolk Words,* 351 (1823).

SKEARY—Alarming or alarmed.

"This sight so skeary beholding."—*Stanihurst, Æneid,* 4.438 (1583).

SKEDADDLE.

Said by Lord Hill, in letter to London Times, to be familiar in Scotland and the North of England.

SKID—Timber for temporary support.

"This tub was fixed upon skids (pieces of timber) six inches thick."—*Philosophical Transactions*, 51.292 (1759).

SKIPJACK—Contemptible fellow.

Murray gives citations from the 16th Century.

SKIPPER—Cheese mite or similar creature.

So defined in Cornwall and Cumberland Glossaries.

SKITE—Run, move fast.

"Like a shot starn that through the air skites east or west."—*Ramsay, Rise and Fall of Stocks*, 112 (1721).

SKIVE—To cut thin.

Defined in Forby's Vocabulary of East Anglia.

SKYLARK—Play in rude style.

"By kicking Nelson when skylarking."—*Naval Chronicle*, 21.84 (1809).

SKY PARLOR—Garret.

Defined in Grose.

SKY PILOT—Chaplain.

Explained in Spectator of Dec. 30, 1893, as a sample of "sailors' parlance." Seems very unlikely to have been taken from American usage.

SLAB, SLABBED, SLAB OFF, SLABSIDED.

*Slab,* in the sense of a broad, flat and thick slice, such as the first cut from the outside of a log, is as old as Tusser's "Husbandry" (1573); and all American uses of the word and its compounds have clear reference to this original meaning.

SLACK BAKED—"Deficient in sagacity."

Merely metaphorical use of a term applied literally (to bread and cake) in Great Britain for centuries.

SLANG—"Careless, foolish talk"—so Thornton.

"Thomas Throw knew the slang well."—*Tolderoy, Two Orphans,* 1.68 (1756).

SLANTENDICULAR—Oblique.

"Buttons at the knees in a slanting-dicular direction." —*Hewlett, Peter Priggins,* 2 (1840).

SLIDE—"To go, be gone, be off."

Wyclif translates I. Kings, 20.39: "Keep this man; the which if were slidden away." (The R. V. reads: "If he be missing." )

SLINK—Sneaking fellow.

"Ye were an unco slink."—*Mactaggart, Gallovid. Encyc.,* 398 (1824).

SLIP—1. Opening between piers; dock.

Used in England, in essentially the same sense, from the 15th Century.

2. Loose garment worn by women.

"His sister the princess dressed also in a slip with hanging sleeves."—*Annual Register*, 228.2 (1761).

SLOP OVER—Be too demonstrative.

The metaphor may be American; but the verb *slop* (spill) is defined in the Hallamshire Glossary.

SLOPE—Inclined surface, as "the Pacific slope."

Used by Bacon, "Sylva," 537 (1626).

SLOSH—Soft mud.

Defined in Jamieson, though he spells it "slush."

SLOUCH in phrase "no slouch"—an adept.

The word *slouch* was "frequently used in the 16th and 17th Centuries as a term of disparagement without precise significance," says Murray.

SLOUGH—Swamp.

Traced back by Murray to the very beginning of the English language.

SLUG—To strike.

So defined in Robinson's "Leeds Dialect."

SLUICE—Pipe or trough for carrying water.

Occurs, spelled *scluse*, in "Ayenbite of Inwit," 255 (1340).

SLUT—Substitute for candle.

"Matches are maid after the manner that maids make sluts."—*Butler, Feminine Monarchie*, 151 (1609).

SMACK—Slap.

Said by Elwyn to be a Sussex provincialism. Occurs in Thackeray, "Shabby-genteel Story," 2 (1840).

SMART—Keen, shrewd, active.

Murray gives instances of the use of this word in the "American" sense as far back as 1300; and (contrary to what seems to be a general impression) that sense has never become obsolete in Great Britain. Charlotte Brontë wrote ("Jane Eyre," chap. 4): "Bessie was smart in all she did." In 1899, an English story called "The Log of the Sea Waif," by F. T. Bullen, has the sentence: "We were mighty smart getting under way." The Chicago News prints a story from Charles Dickens' own lips in which he speaks of himself as telling a stranger who had done a foolish thing that he was "smart enough in some respects." On a single day in London, I cut from three newspapers evidence of present British usage as follows: The Sunday Special, July 17, 1898, had an advertisement beginning: "Smart youth wanted in newspaper office." The St. James Gazette, July 18, 1898, published an article telling how some bank robbers got off "by being very smart"; and the Chronicle of the same date, referring to the same crime, said that "there were two or three smart thieves in league." What sort of an Americanism is this?

SMITCH—Very small quantity.

Said by Murray to be a Scotch word.

SMOKE STACK—Iron chimney.

This would seem to be merely an extension of the use of *stack* for chimney-piece noted by Halliwell as provincial in the west of England. It occurs in the London Telegraph of Aug. 30, 1864, which mentioned that a steamer had "her smoke stack carried away."

SMOOTH—Meadow.

Given in "Promptorium Parvulorum" as translation of the Latin *planities,* which means a piece of level ground.

SMOUCH—Cheat.

Davies says *smouch* is "a cant term for a Jew." Cobbett wrote, in "Rural Rides," 514 (1826): "They smouch, or want to smouch, some of the taxes."

SNAKE—Pursue a winding route.

"Some of the beasts that go snaiken about i' the dark." —*Hogg, Brownie of Bodsbeck,* 7 (1818).

SNARL—Tangle.

Murray has citations from the beginning of the 17th Century.

SNEAKING—Unavowed, timid, concealed.

"I have a sneaking kindness for the sneaking fellow." —*Richardson, Clarissa Harlowe,* 3.303 (1748).

SNEEZE in phrase "not to be sneezed at"—not to be despised.

"Three or four hundred pounds a year is not to be sneezed at."—*Scott, in Lockhart, Aug.* 24, 1813.

SNIDE—Counterfeit, sham, bogus.

"Get ready for the trial and look up the snyde witnesses."—*Cornhill Magazine, November,* 1862.

SNIP—Contemptible fellow.

"This snip of an attorney."—*Massinger, New Way,* 2.2 (1625).

SNIPPY—Finical.

Halliwell says this word, in the sense of mean, is found in various British dialects.

SNOWBOUND.

"I have been snowbound for nearly a month."—*Leigh Hunt, Autobiography,* 2.318 (1814).

SNUG—Projection.

"All snugs and hubs and hills shall be took away."—*Bunyan, Holy City,* 15.107 (1665).

SOAPBERRY—Kind of tree.

"The sopeberry is properly a plum."—*Philosophical Transactions,* 17.621 (1693).

SOFT (drink)—Not alcoholic.

So defined in Antrim and Down Glossary.

SOFT SOAP—Flattery.

"A little soft soap will go a long way with him."—*Tom Brown at Oxford,* 33 (1861).

SOG—Lethargy.

Defined in West Cornwall Glossary.

So LONG—Good-bye.

Clapin says this is "an English provincialism."

SOME—Somewhat.

"My well beloved is some kinder than ordinary."—*Rutherford, Letters,* 1.172 (1636).

SOON—Early, as in phrase "soon in the morning."

The identical phrase quoted may be found in Clough's "Bothie of Tober-na-Vuolich," and may be traced back, with slight variations, to British writers of the 17th, 16th, and even the 14th, Centuries.

SOPSYVINE—Kind of apple.

Corruption (through *Sopsywine*) of *Sops-in-wine,* which is as old as Tusser, "Husbandry," 96 (1573).

SOT—Preterite and past participle of sit and set.

In each case, survival of obsolete British use, and in each case still provincial in Great Britain.

SOURKROUT.

Merely misspelling of the old German *sauer-kraut,* which word was brought to us, just as we have it in pronunciation, by immigrants.

SOUSE—Preparation of certain parts of the pig.

Murray gives citations as far back as the 14th Century.

SOUTHERNER.

"Have I told you of the inconsistencies of these southerners?"—*Newman, Letters,* 1.394 (1833).

SOUTHRON.

"Wallace aft bure the gree frae Suthron billies."—*Burns, to William Simpson,* 10 (1785).

SOZZLE—To splash.

Defined in Moor's "Suffolk Words" (1823), Cooper's Sussex Glossary (1836) and Robinson's Whitby Glossary (1876).

SPAN (of horses)—Pair.

A good Dutch word, brought to this country, exactly as they had used it abroad, by immigrants from Holland.

SPAN CLEAN—Very clean.

Chaucer has "span new" (Troylus, 3, 1665), being clearly the same use of *span.*

SPANNER—Kind of wrench.

Occurs in many British works on mechanical subjects, from 1790 down.

SPARE ROOM—Chamber reserved for guests.

"My intention is to have only two spare bedrooms."—*Scott, in Lockhart,* 2.11.361 (1811).

SPAT—A blow.

Defined in Halliwell as a Kentish provincialism.

SPECIE—Species (the latter word being supposed to be plural, same error as *shay* for *chaise*).

"A list of each respective specie."—*London Gazette,* 4874 (1711).

SPECK—Trifling quantity.

Occurs in Fenner's paraphrase of Solomon's Song, 1.11 (1587) where the A. V. has *studs*.

SPECS—Spectacles.

"Wi' specs on his nose."—*Hogg, Mountain Bard* (1807).

SPELL—To take one's turn at work.

"Every gentleman taking their turns to row at to spell one the other at the hour's end."—*Raleigh, Guiana,* 44 (1595).

SPENDING-MONEY.

"Allowing them little spending-money."—*Bernard's Terence, Heauton Timorumenos,* 1.1 (1598).

SPILE—Pile.

Occurs in Douglas' "Æneid," 9.10.20 (1513).

SPITTOON.

The earliest known appearance of this word is in a St. Louis paper of 1840. But Dickens used it in "Barnaby Rudge," chap. 10, 1841. And Mrs. Gaskell used it in a letter descriptive of a visit at the Brontës' in 1853—"a spittoon, if you know what that is," she wrote—which letter first appeared in Mr. Shorter's introduction to the Gaskell Life of Charlotte Brontë in the World's Classics edition of "Gaskell's Works." It seems almost certain that the term is of British origin.

SPLENDIFEROUS.

"Great and splendiferous."—*G. Ashby, Dicta Philosophica,* 1031 (1460).

SPLORUM—Great and useless fuss.

Merely variant of Burns' splore, as in "Holy Willie," 13 (1785).

SPLURGE.

Said to be old English; see Nation, 5.428 (1867).

SPOILS (of office).

Occurs, in the singular number but in exactly the same sense, in the "Junius letters," 41.232 (1770).

SPOOK—Ghost.

A pure Dutch word, brought to this country by Hollanders.

SPORTSMAN—Gambler.

"A sportsman? Yes; he plays at Whisk eight-and-forty hours together."—*Farquhar, Beaux' Stratagem,* 1.1 (1706).

SPOUTY (land)—Full of springs.

"I find it thrive in spouty ground."—*Earl Haddington, Forest Trees,* 6 (1705).

SPREAD—Repast.

"Spreads on the grass for the better sort of people."—*Gentleman's Magazine,* 92.1.31 (1822).

SPREAD EAGLE.

According to Ellis, Early English Pronunciation, 1.46, there was a Spread-Eagle Court in London in 1704.

SPREE—Carouse.

Defined in Moor's Suffolk Glossary.

SPROUT—Twig.

Murray gives citation of 1300.

SPRUCE—Kind of tree.

"For masts, those of Prussia, which we call spruce, are the best."—*Evelyn, Sylva,* 22.103 (1670).

SPRUCE BEER.

"Many shall have more spruce beer in their bellies than wit in their heads."—*Nashe, Prognostication,* 11 (1591).

SPRUCED UP—Well dressed.

"Salmacis would not be seen till she had spruced up."—*Anatomy of Melancholy,* 3.2.4.1 (1621).

SQUADDY—Short and fat.

"He was a fat, squaddy monk."—*Rich, Greenes News* G.3 (1593).

SQUAIL—To throw something so as to make it skim the ground.

Davies has "Squail, to throw at cocks."

SQUARE—1. Unqualified.

"Fit to direct himself with the square rules of wisdom."—*Lithgow, Travels,* 5.199 (1632).

2. Open space at junction of streets, not necessarily square in form.

So used in London from time immemorial.

3. In phrase "on the square," meaning truthful, honest.

"She's a most triumphant lady if report be square to her."—*Antony and Cleopatra,* 2.2 (1608).

SQUASH—A vegetable.

Only American in application to a particular plant. See "Twelfth Night," 1.5.166.

SQUATTER—Settler on land to which he has no title.

Possibly of American origin, but according to Stormonth an Australian term.

SQUEAKY—Creaky.

"The loud, squeaky voice."—*Miss Yonge, Countess Kate,* 12.133 (1862).

SQUEAL—Betray a confederate.

So defined in the (British) Slang Dictionary.

SQUIB—Speak sarcastically or contemptuously.

"For squibbing and declaiming against many arts."—*G. Harvey, Letters,* 1.80 (1579).

SQUINNY—Broad laugh.

The word occurs, though not precisely in this signification, in various English glossaries.

STAG—Rascal, ready to lie for a consideration.

"Queer bail are stag, men hired at a guinea or two to swear they are worth vast sums."—*Jon Bee, Dictionary of Turf* (1823).

STAG PARTY—One consisting exclusively of men.

"Stag," in the sense of *male,* is traced back by Murray to the beginning of the 17th Century.

STALE—Handle.

Used to translate the Latin *ansa* in "Sidonius Glosses" (1200).

STANCHEL—Stanchion.

Occurs in Register of Privy Council of Scotland, 4.95 (1586).

STAND IN HAND—Behoove, concern. "It stands him in hand to be careful."

"I take no reward of other men's case, but only of my own, that stand me most in hand."—*Beryn*, 3173 (1400).

STAR—Popular performer.

"The little stars, who hid their diminished rays in his (Garrick's) presence, began to abuse him."—*Warner, Selwyn*, 4.30 (1779).

STATEHOUSE—Capitol.

"Pacuvius locked the senators within the statehouse."—*Raleigh, History of World*, 2.23.4 (1614).

STATEROOM (on ship).

"The glance thrown round the little staterooms" (on packet that took her across the sea).—*Mrs. Trollope, Manners of Americans*, 34 (1832).

STATION HOUSE—Place of temporary confinement.

"Tell them of hunger, the station house and the pawnbroker's."—*Dickens, Newgate* (1836).

STAY-AT-HOME—Fond of domestic life.

"The alarm pictured by stay-at-home travellers."—*G. Pinckhard, West Indies*, 3.342 (1806).

STEP-LADDER.

"Step-ladders were fixed against the wall."—*History of New Forest*, 49 (1751).

STICK—Log.

Murray has a citation of the year 1200.

STICK-IN-THE-MUD—Slow, inert man.

May have originated in the United States, but occurs in "Tom Brown at Oxford," chap. 10.

STINKARD.

"Out, thou stinkard, man's grand enemy."—*Timon*, 12.6 (1600).

STINKSTONE.

"Stinkstone color is wood brown."—*Jamieson, Mineralogy*, 1.521 (1804).

STINKWEED.

"Farmers have given it the name of stinkweed."—*Old Country Words* (1793).

STITCH—To form land into ridges.

"They were run through with the potato harrow and made flat before they could be stitched up again."—*Trans. Society of Arts*, 23.31 (1805).

STIVE—To make hot, sultry.

Halliwell has "stived, baked hard."

STOCK—To supply a farm with necessities.

"He has bought the great farm and stocked it."—*Fletcher, Prophetess*, 5.3 (1622).

STOCK (short for live stock)—Cattle.

"It is convenient that he rear two sow calves to uphold his stock."—*Fitzherbert, Husbandry*, 39 (1523).

STOCK AND FLUKE—Including everything.

"The owner of the estate bought it stock and fluke."—*Cobbett, Rural Rides*, 2.5 (1825).

STOCKING FEET—Without shoes.

"This phrase," says Davies, "is not peculiar to Scotland," implying that it is common in that country.

STOCKY—Short and stout.

Listed by Halliwell as a West-of-England provincialism.

STOMP—Mispronunciation of stamp.

"In gallant procession the priests mean to stomp."—*Browning, Englishman in Italy,* 272 (1845).

STOOP—Steps at entrance of a house.

A pure Dutch word.

STOP—Remain for a while.

"They wanted her to let Miss stop with them."—*Bennett, Beggar Girl,* 5.37 (1797).

STORE—Place where goods are sold, called in England a shop.

Who ever heard the Army and Navy Stores in London called the Army and Navy shops?

STORM—To rain or snow.

Murray says this use of the word is "now" peculiar to the United States, implying that it was formerly common in England.

STOVEPIPE—Funnel.

(The plants) "placed nearer or farther from the stove-pipes enjoy the degrees of warmth most agreeable to them."—*Evelyn, Horticulture,* 165 (1699).

STOWAWAY—Clandestine passenger.

"He had been seized as a stowaway."—*Annual Register,* 191 (1854).

STRAIN—Sprain.

"I am not able to ride, by reason of a strain."—*Feuillerat, Revels of Queen Mary,* 251 (1558).

STRAND—1. Landing place.

Murray gives citation of 1205.

2. A fibre.

"One of its strands is broken."—*Falconer, Marine Dictionary* (1815).

STREAK—1. Vein or turn, applied to mental peculiarities.

"Broad streaks of folly now and then appear through the wisdom."—*Annual Register,* 32, 1762.

2. Layer, as in meat, fat and lean.

"Marble having white streaks in it."—*Higins, Junius' Nomenclature,* 414 (1585).

STRETCH, in phrase "on a stretch," continuously.

"So continued battering upon a stretch till five in the afternoon."—*London Gazette,* 2451.3 (1689).

STRIKE—1. Instrument with straight edge.

"We have a strike to run over the mould, to make the bricks smooth."—*Houghton, Improvement Husbandry,* 2.6.188 (1683).

2. In phrase "by the strike," level measure.

"Usage hath continued measure by heap, though some statutes order it by strike."—*Jeake, Arithmetic,* 70 (1674).

STUCK UP—Haughty.

"They are stuck-up gods and goddesses."—*Edinburgh Review, L.,* 245 (1829).

STUMP—Part of tree remaining in ground after cutting.

"Stump of a tree hewn down."—*Promptorium Parvulorum,* 481.1 (1440).

STUNNER—Anything astounding.

"Here was a new stunner."—*Jane Eyre,* 33 (1847).

STUNNING—Astounding.

"A hubbub of stunning sounds."—*Paradise Lost,* 2.952 (1667).

STUNT—An allotted task; a performance.

Merely a variant of the old English *stent, staint* or *stant,* entered with many references in the (British) Dialectical Dictionary.

SUB-BASE—Mopboard, washboard.

"(The screen) of St. Mark is open above the sub-base."—*Pugin, Chancel Screens,* 29 (1851).

SUB-TREASURER.

"The worthy sub-treasurer would have been puzzled." —*Lamb, Elia, Old Benchers* (1821).

SUCKER—1. Tube for sucking.

"The oil was separated from the water by means of a sucker."—*Thomson, Organic Chemistry,* 602 (1838).

2. A fish.

The "sucker" or "suck fish," *Remora,* is described in the 1753 Supplement to Chambers' Cyclopedia.

3. Mean, low fellow; "sponger."

"Flatterers of the king, suckers of his purse."—*Hall, Chronicle, Henry VI,* 151 (1548).

SUICIDE, verb.

"This new and barbarous form, having obtained considerable currency in America, has unfortunately made its way to England," says

Farmer. There is nothing barbarous about using any English noun as a verb; and the oldest known instance of such use of the noun suicide occurs in Lever's "O'Malley," 22.171, published nearly fifty years earlier than Farmer's citation from a St. Louis newspaper of 1888.

SUIT—"A set, a supply," says Thornton, instancing a suit of sails, a suit of curtains and so on. One of Murray's definitions is "a number of objects of the same kind or pattern intended to be used together or forming a definite set," with citation of 1408, "a suit of trees."

SULKY—Light two-wheeled vehicle.

"A female in a sulky, pleased with having the whole vehicle to herself."—*Connoisseur,* 112.4 (1756).

SUMMARIZE.

"We may summarize the natural sources of energy."—*Sir W. Thomson, Nature,* 244 (1881).

SUMMONS, verb.

"He's come to summons us home."—*Franck, North. Mem.,* 34 (1568).

SUN BONNET.

"Bessie had put on her sun bonnet."—*Miss Yonge, Stokesley Secret,* 2 (1860).

SUNSHADE—Parasol.

"Pavonian canopy of azure held in manner of a sunshade."—*Bailey, Festus,* 506 (1852).

SUPAWN—"Hasty pudding," cornmeal boiled soft.

Possibly only special application of the Anglo-Saxon *supan,* soup.

SUPPLEJACK.

"He bestowed on me several stripes with a supplejack."—*Roderick Random,* 24 (1748).

SURE—Surely.

"Sure who hope in thee shall never suffer shame."—*Sidney, Ps.,* 25.2 (1586).

SURROGATE.

"Surrogate, a deputy."—*Cowdrey's Dictionary* (1604).

SURVEYOR.

"Searchers, controllers and surveyors of searches."—*Rolls of Parliament,* 5.54 (1442).

SUSCEPTIBLE.

"Blow with empty words the susceptible flame."—*Prior, Henry and Emma,* 5.19 (1709).

SUSPENDERS—Supports for trousers.

Davies lists this as a British provincialism for "braces."

SUSPICION, verb.

"Suspicioning of himself."—*N. Ferrar, Considerations,* 310 (1637).

SWAMP—Plunge into difficulties.

Merely a metaphorical use of an old word, freely employed as a verb in England at least as early as the 17th century.

SWASH—Narrow sound.

Defined in Phillips' "World of Words," 1706.

SWAT—Strike.

"To swat a person's brains out."—*Pegge, Derbicisms* (1796).

SWINGLETREE—Singletree.

"The horses must have a swingletree to hold the traces."—*Fitzherbert, Husbandry,* 15 (1523).

SWITCH of a railroad track.

"A stop to prevent the switch from flying out too far."—*Curr, Coal Viewer,* 27 (1797).

SYREN—Fog horn.

"The syren, a new acoustical instrument."—*Annual Register,* 2.1364 (1820).

SYSTEMIZE—Systematize.

"He continued to systemize what he thought worthy of his system."—*W. Marshall, Minutes of Agriculture, Digest,* 2 (1778).

## T

TABBY CAT.

"A devil in the shape of a tabby cat."—*Congreve, Love for Love,* 2.3 (1695).

TABERNACLE—Place of worship, differentiated from a church.

"The Bishop of Lincoln preached in the tabernacle near Golden Square."—*Evelyn, Diary, Feb.* 19, 1693.

TABLE—To lay on the table.

"Provost Campbell's appeal was tabled."—*Wodrow Correspondence,* 3.245 (1726).

TACKER—Small child.

Defined in English Dialect Dictionary.

TAFFY—Kind of candy.

Defined in Cheshire Glossary.

TAG—Game played by touching.

"In Queen Mary's reign, tag was all the play."—*Gentleman's Magazine,* 8.80 (1738).

TAILINGS—Refuse, culls.

"For a bushel of best wheat they pay 7s., for first tailings 6s."—*London Times, Aug.* 24, 1846.

TAKE DOWN—Humiliate.

"She had spoken to Constance and taken her down."—*Child Marriages,* 1.12 (1562).

TAKE UP—Arrest.

"Though the sheriff have authority to take up all such stragglers."—*Spenser, State of Ireland, Works,* 679 (1596).

TAKING—Excitement.

"Valens was in a sore taking."—*Hanmer, Ecclesiastical History,* 317 (1577).

TALK—Conference.

"They came to talks and night meetings."—*Bale, English Votaries,* 2.88 (1550).

TANGENT in phrase "to fly off on a tangent."

"Having twelve times described this circle, he flew off at a tangent."—*Smollett, Humphrey Clinker,* 219 (1771).

TANGLE-LEG—Intoxicating liquor.

"Leg tangler" in the same sense occurs in Punch, July 26, 1862.

TARNAL—Eternal.

Defined in Craven Glossary.

TARVE—Turn, bend.

"Apparently," says Murray, "the same as *tarf*," which word occurs in the "Rates of Customs" published 1545.

TAVERN—Drinking place, inn.

"The tavern is the school of the devil."—*Ayenbite of Inwit*, 56 (1340).

TEAM—Party acting together, as in a contest.

"Hear me, my little team of villains."—*Massinger and Dekker, Virgin Martyr*, 4.2 (1622).

TEETOTALLY.

Possibly of American invention, but the earliest known use is in 1832, only seven years before De Quincey used the word ("Roman Meals," "Works," 3.277), and it seems improbable that the English writer got it from the United States.

TELEPHONE.

"Capt. Taylor's telephone instrument."—*London Times, July* 19, 1844.

TELL—Saying, story.

"I am at the end of my tell."—*Walpole, Letter to Mann, July* 29, 1742.

TELL GOOD-BYE.

One of Murray's definitions of *tell* is "to utter, say over, recite, say," with citations from the 14th Century.

TEND—Attend.

Defined in Halliwell.

TENPINS—Game of bowls.

"To play at tenpins."—*Rowlands, Letting Humor's Blood,* 4.64 (1600).

TERRET—Ring holding rein; "turret."

Defined, under spelling *tyret,* in Bailey (1724).

THAT—So. "I was that tired."

"If I had been that unhappy as to have such a foolish thing."—*Russell, Haigs,* 7.160 (1616).

THEREAWAY—In that region.

"There be few wars thereaway."—*R. Robinson, More's Utopia,* 2.253 (1551).

THIRDS—Widow's dower.

"The wife was defrauded of her thirds."—*Bacon, Use of Law, Works,* 1.585 (1596).

THRASH ROUND.

"(A whale) thrashed and rolled about in agony."—*Scoresby, Whaleman's Adventures,* 5.74 (1850).

THRIP—Petty coin.

Obviously means threepence. "Threpps" is so defined in Dictionary of Canting Crew (1700).

THROW UP—Vomit.

"Judge of the cause by the substances which the patient throws up."—*Arbuthnot, Rules of Diet,* 3 (1732).

THWART—Seat in rowboat.

Defined in Bailey (1736).

TIDY—Protecting cover for furniture.

Defined, in sense only slightly different, as "a

light outer covering worn by children to keep their clothes from dirt," in Forby's "East Anglia Vocabulary" (1825).

TIDY UP—Put in order.

"I mean to have it tidied up this summer."—*Miss Mitford, in L'Estrange Life,* 2.127 (1821).

TIE—Equal number on each side; match.

"If each win a trick, and the third tied, neither win."—*Cotton, Gamester,* 15.93 (1680).

TIE—Bar holding railroad track; "sleeper."

Only special application of word used in England for centuries in architectural writings.

TIE UP—Make fast.

"Death ties up my tongue."—*Romeo and Juliet,* 4.5.32 (1592).

TIGHT—Drunk.

"For the word drunk I find of slang equivalents half-seas-over, far gone, tight."—*Household Words, Sept.* 24, 1853.

TILE—Hat.

"The boy threw up his tile."—*Spirit of Public Journals,* 55 (1823).

TIMBER—Woodland.

"Timber is part of the inheritance."—*Blackstone, Commentaries,* 2.18.6.281 (1766).

TIME in phrase "a good time."

"I had as good a time as heart could wish."—*Pepys' Diary, March* 1, 1666.

TINKER—Kind of fish.

"Skate, blue skate and gray skate, tinker."—*Yarrell, British Fishes,* 2.421 (1836).

TINNER—Worker in tinned iron.

Given in Cotgrave as translation of *estaignier* (1611).

TIPPLE—Intoxicating liquor.

"Of pleasant wine their tipple in they take."—*Hall, Iliad,* 10.165 (1581).

TIPPYBOBS—The wealthy classes.

I never heard the word; but *tippy,* meaning fine, is in Brockett.

TIPTOP—Summit; the very best.

Defined in Moor's Suffolk Glossary.

TITHING MAN—Civil Officer.

"Tithing man, the chief man of the free pledges."—*Lambarde, Eirenarcha,* 1.3 (1581).

To misused for at or in. "I haven't been to Washington for a year."

Noticed in Halliwell as a Devonshire provincialism.

TOADFISH.

"The todefish will swell till it be like to burst."—*Capt. Smith, Virginia,* 15 (1612).

TODDY—Alcoholic drink.

"Excessive drinking of toddy."—*Foster, English Factories in India,* 185 (1620).

TOE THE MARK.

Only slight variation of Marryat's "toe the line," "Peter Simple," 9 (1833).

TOM DOG, TOM TURKEY.

*Tom,* meaning male, and long familiar in its most common combination, *tomcat,* is applied to various other animals and to birds in several glossaries of British dialects.

TOO THIN, said of subterfuge or pretence—Transparent.

"This pretext was too thin to impose upon her lover."—*Smollett, Peregrine Pickle,* 26 (1751).

TOOT—Spree.

Defined in glossary to "Shirrefs' Poems" (1790).

TOPHET—Hell.

Occurs frequently in the Authorized Version of the Old Testament.

TOPSAWYER—Man of consequence.

Defined in Grose as Norfolk slang.

TORTLE—Move like a turtle.

*Tortle* is obsolete form of *turtle;* and the use of a noun as a verb has always been allowable in English.

TOTE—Total; all there is.

"My bill, what is the tote?"—*Foote, Cozeners,* 3 (1774).

TOUCH—Get money from.

"I am quite broke up; his grace has touched me for five hundred."—*C. Johnston, Chrysal,* 2.43 (1760).

TOUCH-AND-GO.

"We may taste it to bring on appetite, let it be but a touch and go."—*Moufet and Bennet, Health's Improvement,* 59 (1655).

TOUCH-ME-NOT—A plant.

Given as synonym of *cucumis asinimus* in Gerarde's "Herbal," 2.327.76 (1597).

TOW—That which is towed.

Murray gives citation from one of Lord Nelson's despatches, which speaks of "securing the masts and tow."

TOWN—District, not implying houses.

"By the name of a town, a manor may pass."—*Coke on Littleton,* 1.5 (1628).

TOWNHOUSE—1. House where public business is transacted.

So used in England from the 16th Century.

2. A house in town.

"I have no other town house."—*Hook, Man of Many Friends,* 1.284 (1825).

TOWNSHIP.

"To assess every township with the said hundreds."—*Rolls of Parliament,* 5.111 (1444).

TOWROW—Racket.

Defined in Holderness Glossary.

TRACE—Track or trail.

"Men might well follow him by the trace."—*Caxton, Sons of Aymon,* 9.238 (1489).

TRACK of railroad.

"The width of each track (of the Surrey railway) is 5½ feet."—*Rees, Cyclopedia, s. v. Canal* (1805).

TRACK—Trail, footsteps.

"Might I find the track of his horse."—*Malory, Arthur,* 10.14.435 (1470).

TRAIL—Track; mark where man or beast has passed.

"This is an aspic's trail."—*Antony and Cleopatra,* 5.2.352 (1608).

TRAINERS—Militia assembled for drill.

Murray gives British citation of 1581.

TRAINING-DAY.

"As he passed by my window the last training-day."—*Wycherley, Plaindealer,* 2.1 (1676).

TRAMP—Strolling vagabond.

Halliwell says this word in the sense given occurs in "various dialects" of England. De Quincey notes ("Confessions," 1.147) that it is used "in solemn acts of Parliament."

TRAMPOOS—To tramp.

"I'd teach 'em to bring a gentleman's son tramboozing about the country."—*O'Keeffe, Wild Oats,* 2.3 (1798).

TRANSIENT—Lodger for only a day or two.

This American use differs only very slightly from that of Sparks, "Primer of Devotions," 279 (1652).

TRAPS—Clothing, baggage, goods.

Defined in Halliwell.

TRASH—Leaves of sugarcane.

Only special and natural application of an old term, used in England to signify rubbish since at least the middle of the 16th Century.

TREAT—Give refreshments, especially liquor.

Murray gives citation of 1500. Davies defines "treating-house, a restaurant."

TRIMMINGS—Accessories, decorations.

"Must this pomp, this attire, this beauty be the trimmings?"—*Long, Barclay's Argenis,* 4.5.255 (1625).

TROLL—Method of fishing.

"Consider how God by his preachers trowleth for thee."—*S. Gardiner, Book of Angling,* 28 (1606).

TROT OUT—Bring forward.

"His guest, to be trotted out before all the rest of the company."—*Lytton, Alice,* 7.3 (1838).

TRUCK—Two wheeled vehicle for carrying goods.

"Any truck or cart, sledge wagon, dray."—*Hull Dock Act,* 46 (1774).

TRUMP used metaphorically.

"The best intentions form all mankind's trump cards."—*Byron, Don Juan,* 8.25 (1822).

TRY ON—Attempt.

"Try on, to endeavor."—*Lexicon Balatronicum* (1811).

TUMBLE or TUMBLE TO—Understand.

"The high words we call jawbreakers, and say we can't

tumble to that barrikin."—*Mayhew, London Labor,* 1.15 (1851).

TURFMAN—Man fond of attending races.

"I never was a turfman."—*Sporting Magazine,* 2.214 (1818).

TURNIP—Watch.

"The turnip showed him he had not time to lose."—*Verdant Green,* 1.6 (1853).

TURRET SHIP.

"Turretted ships" are mentioned in Whewell's History Inductive Sciences, 1.189 (1837).

TURTLER—Turtle catcher.

"The Jamaica turtlers have such nets."—*Dampier, Voyages,* 1.395 (1679).

TUSSLE—Contest.

"We present Hugh Houghton for a tussle upon Ballive Cantrell."—*Edinburgh Municipal Records,* 1.232 (1629).

TYKE—Troublesome child.

Meant originally a dog, but was applied to persons as early as the 15th century.

## U

UNDERPINNING.

Defined by Halliwell as pediment on which the frame of a house is placed.

UNFEELING.

"Unfeeling fools can with such wrongs dispense."—*Comedy of Errors,* 2.1.103 (1593).

## V

VALINCH—Liquor sampler.

Defined (under *valentia*) in Moor's "Suffolk Words," 1823.

VENDIBILITY.

"The vendibility of commodities."—*Jeremy Taylor, Ductor,* 4.1 (1660).

VENDUE—Auction.

"Clothes purchased at a vendue."—Roderick Random, 36 (1748).

## W

WEAKEN.

"Their hands shall be weakened from the work that it be not done."—*Nehemiah,* 6.9 (*A. V.,* 1611).

WELL—Meaningless prefix to a sentence.

"Then said Daniel unto him, 'Well, thou hast also lied.' "—*Susanna, Apocryphal addition to Book of Daniel* (1611).

"Well, the delightful day will come."—*Samuel Medley* (1789).

Occurs so frequently in Shakespeare that the references are not listed in the Cowden Clarke concordance. Freely used also by modern British writers—Beaconsfield, Emily Brontë, Anthony Trollope, Dickens, George Eliot, and others. It is about as much of an Americanism as is any imaginable use of the word *guess.*

WHEAL—Swelling.

Only a variant of Shakespeare's *weal,* as in "Macbeth," 3.4.76—"Ere human statute purged the gentle weal."

WHELK—Sore, pustule.

"His face is all bubuckles and whelks and knobs."—*King Henry V.,* 3.6.111 (1600).

WIDE AWAKE—On the alert.

Possibly first used in America, but you will find it in "The Newcomes," chap. 20, and in "Sketches by Boz," Chap 10, Watkins Tuttle. In any event, there is nothing peculiar in using the phrase in the sense defined.

WIDE-AWAKE—Kind of hat.

"He has found a wide-awake cooler than an iron kettle."—*Charles Kingsley, Two Years Ago, Introduction* (1856).

WISDOM TOOTH—Molar last to appear.

"He's not cut his wisdom teeth yet."—*Mrs. Gaskell, Sylvia's Lovers,* 21.

WOLFISH—Savage. "A western word," says Bartlett.

"Thy desires are wolfish."—*Merchant of Venice,* 4.1. 138.

WOODSMAN.

Only a variant of Shakespeare's *woodman,* "Measure for Measure," 4.3.174.

WORRISOME.

Defined ("troublesome") by Davies.

WUNST—Once.

Characterized by a writer in Harper's Monthly (66.665) as a Sussex provincialism.

## Y

YANK—Jerk.

Skeat says this word "was carried from the north of England or Scotland to America."

YELLOW JACK—Yellow fever.

"His elder brother died of yellow-jack in the West Indies."—*Dombey & Son,* 10 (1847).

## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

Our British critic, Mr. Whibley, whose statement to the effect that only three words generally counted as Americanisms are really of old English origin is quoted at the head of this chapter, adds some other remarks ("American Sketches," page 215) which it seems more convenient to treat separately. They are these:

"That a country which makes a constant boast of its practical intelligence should delight in long, flat, cumbrous collections of syllables such as *locate, operate, antagonize, transportation, commutation* and *proposition,* is an irony of civilization. These words, if words they may be called, are hideous to the eye, offensive to the ear, and inexpressive to the mind. They are the base coins of language. They are put upon the street fresh from some smasher's den."

It will be observed that Mr. Whibley raises no point about any American misuse of any of these "collections of syllables"; his objection is to our using them at all, and rests on his supposing that they are very recently invented (invented by Americans, he seems to think, but that is not material) and that they have no sort of authority in their favor; he questions whether they should be called English words! The fact is, every one of them has been in use in England for decades, all but one of them for centuries. That one is *transportation*, which may not be older than 1776, but certainly appeared in that year in Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," Book 1, Chap. 11. *Locate* occurs in Lord Stair's "Institutions of the Laws of Scotland," 1.15 (1681), *antagonize* in Sir Thomas Herbert's "Travels," 211 (1634), *operate* in "Troilus and Cressida," 5.3.108 (1606), *commutation* in Hawes' "Pastime of Pleasure," 10.5 (1509), *proposition* in Wyclif's "Exodus," 25.30 (1382). They have been used in England, without falling at all into disfavor, ever since the dates given, down to the present time, as quotations of the present century could easily be given to prove. The fact that Mr. Whibley seems to have taken a queer and inexplicable dislike to them, is really of no sort of consequence to anybody but perhaps himself.

A case of similar blundering is to be found on page 24 of the Messrs. Fowler's "The King's English," where the reader is exhorted to make "a very firm





stand" against three "American verbs" that illustrate the "barbaric taste" that prevails in the United States. These dreadful American inventions are *placate,* which was used by Cudworth, in "Intellectual System," 1.4, published in 1678; *antagonize,* which is defined in Bailey's Dictionary, 1742; and *transpire,* for which Murray gives a string of citations, running in date from 1597 to 1908. It really does appear, as some writer has expressed it, that when an Englishman dislikes a word, he is very likely to call it an Americanism and think that settles it.

# CHAPTER FOUR

## SOME REAL AMERICANISMS

"And you may have a pretty considerable good sort of a feeble notion that it don't fit nohow; and that it ain't calculated to make you smart overmuch; and that you don't feel special bright, and by no means first rate, and not at all tonguey; and that, however rowdy you may be by natur', it does use you up com-plete, and that's a fact; and makes you quake considerable, and disposed toe damn the engine—all which phrases, I beg to add, are pure Americanisms of the first water."—*Charles Dickens, Letter to John Forster.*

The present writer is not quite old enough to remember the time of the great English novelist's first visit to the United States; and therefore cannot bear personal testimony to the language of the Americans of that period; but he has been interested in colloquial speech, and the use of words in general, for over fifty years, taking careful notice of verbal, especially oral, peculiarities in many parts of this country and among all sorts and conditions of people; and he can honestly say that the above elegant extract contains only one probably American error that he believes himself ever to have heard—the pronouncing long the *i* in *engine.* He recalls hearing one of his schoolmates so speak the word, somewhere back in the fifties; and recalls

also the unmannerly guffaw of laughter with which the mispronunciation was greeted, not one of the boys in the group, except the speaker, having ever heard it before. He never in his life heard anybody pronounce the sign of the infinitive like *toe;* and he never heard the word *rowdy* used by anybody except to designate a ruffian. The *don't* with subject in the singular (used more than once by Dickens himself), the double negative, the adjectives for adverbs, the cacophanous *aint,* the mispronunciation *natur'* (reprobated by Walker as long ago as 1791) are surely one and all quite as common on the other side of the sea as they are here, always have been so, and are of no great consequence in any case, being simply faults of speech characteristic of the vulgar, in whatever country they may be heard. As for *tonguey,* it occurs in Wyclif's "Ecclesiasticus," 8.4—"strive not with a man that is tonguey," a translation completed almost a century before Columbus was born, and made by a scholar who ranks as the father of English prose. So much for one discovery of a batch of "Americanisms of the first water."

But that is not to say that such things do not exist. Here is a list, with briefest possible definitions (or none at all, if the meaning is unmistakable) of about 1900 of them,[1] words and phrases that appear for the most part to be genuine Americanisms, which is to say that each of them, so far as known, either (1)

[1] Which may be thought a large number; but please see p. 28.

originated in America and expresses something that the British have always expressed differently if they have mentioned it at all, or else (2) would convey to a British ear a different meaning from that which it bears in this country. This list, and the list of exotic (and therefore pseudo-) Americanisms which precedes it, account for all words of any importance that are dealt with by Pickering, Bartlett, Farmer, Clapin and Thornton; and included in the list now to be presented are also a considerable number of terms that escaped the attention of the compilers named or have come into use since the publication of their books. The date given is that of the earliest known appearance of the word or phrase in print. When an initial is given instead of a date, it indicates that the word is catalogued by the compiler referred to, and therefore must be older than his book; "P" standing for Pickering (1816), "B" for Bartlett (1877), "F" for Farmer (1889), "C" for Clapin (1902), "T" for Thornton (1912). In some cases where the present writer, though unable to offer evidence, is quite sure that the word is much older than the oldest recorded date, the initial is used, even thought dates may be given by the compiler indicated. This is especially the case with Farmer, most of whose citations bear one single date, 1888. The initial "T" occurs very seldom, for the reason that Thornton dates all his citations and has been wonderfully successful in tracing his words far back into American antiquity.

"B" on the other hand appears continually, very few of Bartlett's citations bearing date, as the historical method of quoting had not come into use in his time. Excluded from both lists, except for special reasons in special cases (and the writer is well aware of the difficulty of preserving consistency in the matter) are:

1. Words and phrases stated by the previous compiler himself to be of foreign origin, like Farmer's *hand-me-downs*, second-hand or ready-made garments, a term said by him to be "slang in England" but "colloquial in the United States";

2. Names of things exclusively American but known abroad under the same name, such as *moccasin*, it being as absurd to call these words Americanisms as it would be to call *rajah* an Indianism or *boomerang* an Australianism;

3. Names of things invented in the United States, like *drawing-room car*—inventors have certainly the right to name their products, and if the English choose to call them something else, that change cannot make any sort of ism of the original appellation;

4. Words used in this country in a sense hardly distinguishable from that which they bear in England, like *force* for a gang of laborers, counted by Farmer as an Americanism because the term is restricted in England to a party of soldiers or policemen;

5. Nonce words, like Mark Twain's *cavalieress*, probably never used by anybody but the inventor and

perhaps only once by him, such vocables forming no part of the language;

6. Perfectly regular and self-explanatory compounds, like *office-holder* in Bartlett, *planing-machine* in Farmer, *ink-slinger* in Clapin and *fly-time* in Thornton; and finally,

7. Purely technical terms, often hard to distinguish from slang, like many of those used in newspaper accounts of base-ball matches, terms quite as unintelligible to Americans, except those specially interested in the game, as they can possibly be to any Englishman.

## A

ABERGOINS—Aborigines, B.

ABOARD a land vehicle, F.

ABOLITIONDOM—The Free States, 1848.

ABOLITIONIST, 1790.

ABOLITIONIZE, B.

ABORIGINAL—Original, F.

ABOVE ONE'S BEND, B.

ABOVE SNAKES—Above the ground, B.

ABRASIVE, 1823.

ABSKISE—To depart, C.

ABSQUATULATE—To depart in haste, 1833.

ABUTTER—Owner of adjoining property, 1874.

ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORN—Make an admission, 1828.

ACROSS LOTS, 1825.

ACRUFFS—River thieves, F.
ACCUMULATIVES, C.
ADOBES—Sun-baked bricks, 1834.
ADVENTISM and ADVENTIST, B.
AFFILIATIONS—Friendly relations, 1822.
AFRICANIZE and AFRICANIZATION, B.
AFTER—Afternoon, C.
AGAZE—Astonished, F.
AGE—First hand in poker, C.
AGUE pronounced to rhyme with *plague*, B.
AIR-LINE—Direct route, 1840.
ALBANY BEEF—Sturgeon, B.
ALBANY HEMP—Canada nettle, B.
ALBANY REGENCY—An old political cabal, B.
ALEWIFE—Kind of fish, 1678.
ALGERINE—Pirate, 1844.
ALGIC—Pertaining to Algonquin Indians, B.
ALIENISM, P.
ALKALI DESERT, B.
ALL ANY MORE—All gone, B.
ALL-A-SETTING—In good condition, B.
ALL-DAY—Steady, strong, B.
ALL HOLLOW—Completely, B.
ALLOTTEE, F.
ALL-POSSESSED—"Affected by evil spirits," B.
ALL SORTS—Mixed odds and ends of drinks, B.
ALL SORTS OF—Excellent, capital, B.
ALL THE GO, ALL THE RAGE—Very popular, C.
ALL THE TIME—Continually, repeatedly.

ALL TWO—Both, B.

ALLOT UPON—Intend, P.

ALLOW—Intend; "I allow to go (or allot upon going) home to-morrow."

ALTER—Castrate, F.

AMBIA—Expectorated tobacco juice, B.

AMBITION—Grudge, B.

AMBITIOUS—Angry, 1837.

AMBUSCADE—Quarrel, C.

AMERICANISM, P.

AMERICANIZE, 1802.

AMONG—Between, referring to two, B.

AMONG THE MISSING—Disappeared, B.

AND THE RISE—More than stated, C.

ANGEL—Patron of a show or an actress.

ANGELIFEROUS—Highly delightful, F. (Perhaps a nonce word.)

ANGLE WORM—Worm used for bait, C.

ANIMULE—Mule, F.

ANOG—Andiron, 1840.

ANTE—In game of poker, 1857.

ANTEHUMOUS—Before death, 1862. (From mistake as to meaning of *posthumous*.)

ANTI-BANK—Opposed to central U. S. bank, 1862.

ANTI-FEDERALIST—Extinct political party, 1788.

ANTI-FOGMATIC—Euphemism for a drink of liquor, 1789.

ANTI-MASONRY—Principles of extinct political party, B.

ANTI-NEGRO, B.

ANTI-RENTISM—Associated refusal, by tenants of old manorial estates around Albany, to pay rent to the patroon, 1846.

ANTI-SLAVERY, B.

ANTI-SOUTHERN, 1861.

ANTI-UNION—Favoring the rebellion of 1861.

ANYTHING ELSE—"Hyperbolical phrase denoting strong affirmation," B.

ANTONY OVER—Boys' game, F.

ANXIOUS MEETING—Religious assembly for repentant sinners, B.

ANXIOUS SEAT—Seat for persons desiring the prayers of the meeting, 1835.

APARTMENT—Apartment house.

APISHAMORE—Bed or saddle blanket, B.

APPETITICAL—Inviting to the appetite, 1855.

APPLE BRANDY, B.

APPLE BUTTER, 1832.

APPLE LEATHER, B.

APPLE PEELING—Party for peeling apples, 1871.

APPLE TODDY, 1809.

APPRECIATE—To rise or raise in value, 1779.

APPRECIATION—Increase in value, P.

ARAB in *"street Arab"*—Ragamuffin, B.

ARCTICS—Heavy overshoes, F.

ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK—Bowie knife, B.

ARMORY—Place where arms are manufactured, B.

ARM-SHOP—Gunsmith's establishment, F.

AROUND—Near, as in phrase, "I was standing around," B.

ARROW—Flavor of sugarcane, F.

ARTER—Mispronunciation of *after*, F.

ARY—E'er a, any, 1852.

ASCOTCH—Wet gunpowder, B.

AS GOOD AS—Might as well, as in phrase, "I'd as good's go to New York," B.

AS LONG AS—Because, since, B.

ASH CAKE—Cake baked in ashes, 1839.

ASHLANDERS—Baltimore rowdies, B.

ASSEMBLYMAN—Member of lower house of legislature, B.

ASSOCIATIONAL—Relating to an association, 1815.

ASSOCIATIONIST—Member of an association, B.

ASTERISM—Asterisk, 1796.

AT, verb—to go at, to attack, "I at him," B.

AT AUCTION instead of "by auction," B.

AT (instead of in) the North or South, B.

AT THAT—Phrase used to emphasize a statement, 1830.

ATTLEBOROUGH—Sham jewelry, F.

AVAILABLE and AVAILABILITY, as applied to a person who is under consideration for nomination to an office, and meaning, not at all that he will consent to run, but that it is expedient to name him. Many men, highly available in the proper sense of the word, are not at all available in the sense in which it is often used in this country; you can

get them easily enough, but you don't want them. Thus used, the two words are, I believe, genuine (and very bad) Americanisms. They date in print from 1848.

AVALANCHE—Ambulance, B.

## B

BABES—Baltimore rowdies, B.

BACK—Ago, B.

BACK A LETTER—Direct it, B.

BACK A NOTE OR CHECK—Endorse it, C.

BACK COUNTRY—That remote from main highways, B.

BACK DOWN—Retreat, B.

BACK FURROW—Method of plowing, B.

BACK LOG of an open fire, 1684.

BACK SETTING—Method of plowing, B.

BACK TALK—Reply, C.

BACK TRACK, to take—To retrace one's steps, 1802.

BACK WATER—To retreat, metaphorically speaking, to retract one's words, B.

BACKWOODS—Forest, country thinly populated, 1768.

BAIT—Fulcrum, F.

BAKER—Portable oven, 1841.

BAKE-SHOP—Baker's establishment, 1862.

BALANCE—Remainder, P.

BALD-FACE (whiskey), 1840.

BALL UP—Fail or cause to fail, confuse, F.

BALLYHACK—Imaginary place of discomfort to which the speaker would like to send somebody, 1845.

BALLYRAG—Revile, F.

BANG—Hair cut straight across forehead, 1880.

BANGO—Negro expletive of uncertain (or no) meaning, B.

BANKER—Fishing craft, B.

BANK SNEAK—Person who steals from a bank, 1888.

BANTER—Challenge, 1793.

BARBERIZE—Perform duties of barber, B.

BARN for *stable*—Place where animals are kept, but not hay, grain or other crops except in small quantities and incidentally, C.

BARRACK—Open structure for storing hay, B.

BARRACLADE—Kind of blanket, B.

BARRACOON—Slave house, B.

BARTENDER, BARKEEPER—Person who sells drinks in barroom.

BAT—Spree, drunken carousal, 1848.

BAYOU—Arm of watercourse, 1812.

BEACH-COMBER—1. Wave striking the shore. 2. Person living near shore, with connotation of his being disreputable, generally criminal.

BEAD, to draw—To take aim, 1873.

BEAT—Excelling everything else of the same kind; "I never saw the beat of that"; 1847.

BEAT or DEAD BEAT—Mean cheat, bilk.

BEAT OUT—Very tired, B.

BEDSPREAD—Coverlet, counterpane, F.

BEE—A meeting to help a neighbor in his work, 1769.

BEE GUM—Kind of hive, 1835.

BEHINDMENTS—Arrearages, B.

BELITTLE, P.

BELL HOP—Bell boy in hotel.

BELT—Kill tree by girdling it, F.

BENT—Part of a building that should not bend, C.

BESTOWMENT—Giving, P.

BETTY—Kind of flask, B.

BIFF—A blow, C.

BIG in metaphorical sense—Great, fine, excellent, B.

BIGGITY—Consequential, F.

BIG-HEAD—Disease in cattle, undue sense of importance in man.

BILLION—A thousand million, 1840. Very sensible change (and supported by French usage) from the English way of understanding *billion* as a million million, and therefore almost negativing the use of the word by applying it to a number so enormous as to be scarcely ever referred to in ordinary life, whereas we deal constantly with the American *billion* and find the term very convenient. There seems to be no more reason for calling our billion "a thousand million" than for calling a million "a thousand thousand."

BINDERY—Place where books are bound, B.

BISHOP—Lady's bustle, 1790.

BISLINGS—First milk of cow after calving, C.

BIT—A small coin, 1683.

BLACKSNAKE—Kind of whip, 1869.

BLAMED—Damned, B.

BLANKETY—Euphemism for any profane word the reader chooses to suppose.

BLATHERSKITE—Loud, vapid talk, F.

BLATT—"To talk with noisy assurance and bluster," C.

BLAZE—Mark on tree, indicating trail, 1737.

BLEACHERS—Uncovered seats at open-air functions, T.

BLICKEY—Tin pail, B.

BLIND—Term in poker, F.

BLINDERS for horses—The English *blinkers,* 1809.

BLIZZARD—Violent storm, with snow and great cold, 1834.

BLOATED (eels)—Skinned and eviscerated, B.

BLOCK—Space between streets; row of buildings all in contact, 1796. In the former sense, equivalent to *square* as used in some places.

BLOOD TUBS—Baltimore rowdies, 1861.

BLOOMER COSTUME, 1851.

BLOWER—Iron sheet in front of fire, to increase draft, 1795.

BLOWHARD—Braggart, 1855.

BLOW UP—To berate, B.

BLUEBACKS—"Confederate" bills, B.

BLUELIGHTS—Traitors, 1812.

BLUE PILL—Bullet, 1861.

BLUFF—Putting on bold face, having weak cause, 1850.

BLUMMECHIES—Kind of flowers, B.

BLUMMIES—Flowers, B.

BOATABLE—Navigable, 1683.

BOB—Kind of bait, B.

BOB SLED—Sled supported by what may be called shorter sleds under it, B.

BOB (veal)—Immature, unfit for eating, F.

BOCKEY—Vessel made from gourd, B.

BODACIOUSLY—Bodily, 1833.

BODY BOLT of wagon, B.

BOGUS—Imitation, 1827.

BOLT—Desert one's party, 1812.

BOMBO—North Carolina animal, B.

BONANZA—Lucky hit, 1847.

BONE—Tip to customs-house officer; dollar.

BONE—To apply one's self, B.

BONEYARD—Cemetery, F.

BOODLE—1. All; "the whole kit and boodle," 1833. 2. Money, particularly if dishonestly obtained, 1858.

BOOKSTORE, 1796.

BOOM—Sudden increase in popularity.

BOOST—To lift from below, 1825.

BOOT—To kick, B.

BOOTLICK—Toady, B.

BORNING GROUND—Native soil, B.

Bosom of a shirt, C.

Boss—Employer or director, 1806.

Bothersome—Vexatious, B.

Bounce—To throw out or discharge a person, B.

Bounty Jumper—Soldier who deserts after receiving bounty, B.

Bourbon—1. Kind of whiskey, 1857. 2. Determined Democrat, whom nothing can change, 1859.

Bower—Knave of trumps and the other knave of same color, in euchre, B.

Box—1. Boat for duck shooting, B. 2. Incision in tree to collect turpentine, B.

Box Car—Closed car, 1862.

Box Coat—Heavy overcoat, B.

Brace Up or Take a Brace—Pull one's self together, C.

Branch—Brook, 1817.

Brave—Indian warrior, B.

Breadstuff—Edible grain, 1793.

Break—1. Sale of tobacco, B. 2. Bad blunder, C.

Breakback—Kind of roof, B.

Breakbone Fever—1862.

Breakdown—1. Riotous dance, B. 2. Dead failure, 1877.

Bred (said of female animal)—Impregnated, served, covered.

Brick in the Hat—Drunk, 1848.

Brill—Burr left on edge of cut metal, B.

BRITICISM, 1882. This has been criticized as incorrectly formed, there being no such word as Britic. It however follows the analogy of Scotticism, used by Defoe (1717), Wesley (1772), and Leigh Hunt (1815). See p. 42.

BRITISHER, 1843.

BROADHORN—Kind of boat, F.

BROGUES—Breeches, 1809.

BRONCHO—Native California horse, 1878.

BROTUS or BROTTUS—Small gift to customer, lagniappe, B.

BROUGHTENS UP—Breeding, education, B.

BRUNG—Brought, 1835.

BUB or BUBBY—Little boy, F.

BUCCANEER—Long musket, B.

BUCK—1. Male sheep, ram. 2. Stand on which wood is sawed for fuel, B. 3. Dollar, commonly without inflection for the plural, "two buck" meaning two dollars.

BUCKBOARD—Kind of wagon, 1839.

BUCKET—Pail, B.

BUCKET SHOP—Office where stock transactions for customers are not actually made, though supposed to be, 1881.

BUCK FEVER—Agitation of inexperienced deer hunter, B.

BUCK SHOT—Large shot, used for deer, B.

BUCKSKIN—Persons wearing deer-skin garments, 1755.

BUCKTAILS—Extinct political party, 1851.

BUFFALO—Bison, B.

BUFFALO ROBE—Rug made of bison-skin, B.

BULGE, to get—To get the better of one, 1860.

BULGER—Something very big, B.

BULL BOAT—One made of ox-hides, B.

BULLDOZE—To intimidate or bully, 1876.

BULL PLOW, C.

BULL'S EYE—Thick and heavy watch, B.

BULLWHACKER—Driver of oxen, 1859.

BUM or BUMMER—Loafer, 1856.

BUMPER of railroad car—What is called *buffer* in England, B.

BUN—Load of liquor; jag.

BUNCH—To gather together, B.

BUNCO—To cheat, F.

BUNCOMBE—Insincere nonsense, meant to be taken seriously, 1791.

BUNDLE, said of a man and a woman—To occupy the same bed, fully dressed, and without connotation of their engaging in really reprehensible proceedings, 1781.

BUNGAY—Hell, B.

BUNGO—Kind of boat, B.

BUNGTOWN COPPER—Spurious halfpenny, 1840.

BUNKER—Kind of fish, B.

BURDENSOME—Capable of carrying cargo, 1763.

BURGALL—Kind of fish, B.

BURGLE or BURGLARIZE—To commit burglary.

BUSHWHACKER—1. Countryman, B. 2. Guerilla, 1864. 3. Scythe, sickle or similar implement, B.

BUSTER—1. Obstreperous person, B. 2. Spree, B.

BUTT—To oppose, B.

BUTTE—Detached and steep hill, 1838.

BUTTER-FINGERED—"Said of person whose powers of retaining an article in his grasp are not great," C.

BUTTERINE—Imitation butter, B.

BUTTERNUT—"Confederate" soldier in rebellion of 1861.

BUZZ SAW—Circular saw, F.

BY AND AGAIN—Occasionally, B.

BY-BIDDER—Bidder at auction who does not mean to buy, but only to raise the price, B.

BY SUN—Before sunset, B.

## C

CABLE—1. Car drawn by cable. 2. Message by submarine telegraph, 1871.

CABLEGRAM—Message by submarine telegraph, 1868.

CABOODLE—The whole lot, 1856.

CACK—Small shoe, B.

CAHOOT—Combination, 1834.

CALL—Privilege of buying, before a specified date, a certain stock from a certain person at a specified price.

CALIBOGUS—Kind of drink, 1792.

CALL DOWN—Reprove, scold, correct.

CALLITHUMPIANS—Party giving noisy burlesque of a serenade, B.

CAMPAIGN—Contest for offices, B.

CAMPHENE—Oil formerly used in lamps, B.

CAMPUS of a college—Open field near buildings, 1833.

CANNOT or CAN ONLY—for *may not* or *may only*, where the question is of right and not of power, as in phrase, "This wrapper cannot be used" for certain purposes, or "can only be used for certain purposes," meaning to lay down a rule and not to state an impossibility. (I have never seen this error listed as an Americanism, and hope to be shown that I am in error in believing it to be one; but such is my impression.)

CANAILLE—Shorts, low grades of flour.

CANDIDACY, 1861.

CANEBRAKE—Thicket of canes, 1787.

CANE-RUSH—Struggle for stick between two classes in college, C.

CANON—Narrow passage between high and precipitous banks, 1834.

CANUCK—Canadian, 1855.

CAPPER—By-bidder, as defined above, B.

CAPTION—Title or heading, 1821.

CAR-HOUSE—Obsolete term for railroad station, C. (I think it not obsolete.)

CARPET-BAGGER—Temporary resident, with implication of contempt, 1857.

CARRIOLE—Sleigh, 1808.

CARRY—Portage, 1851.

CARRYALL—1. Vehicle, 1814. 2. Kind of traveling bag.

CARRYLOG—Vehicle for moving timber.

CASE—1. Peculiar character. 2. Vulgar name for favorite kind of traveling bag, called first a dress suit case, then a suit case, finally (by some people) simply a case.

CASKET—Coffin, 1879.

CAT—To catch, or try to catch, catfish, C.

CATAWAMPOUS or CATAWAMPTIOUS—Various indefinite meanings, 1843.

CATCH-ALL—Miscellaneous receptacle, 1838.

CATCH ON—Understand, 1884.

CAT BOAT—Boat with one mast near bow and one sail, B.

CAT HAUL—Punish by dragging fierce cat along the victim's naked back, 1816.

CAUCUS—Informal preliminary political meeting, 1744.

CAVENDISH—Preparation of tobacco, B.

CAVORT—Prance, 1834.

CELESTIAL—Chinaman, B.

CENT—Hundredth part of a dollar, B.

CHANCE—Quantity; "he lost a smart chance of blood," 1819.

CHAPARRAL—Thicket, particularly of dwarf oak, B.

CHARLOTTE or CHARLOTTE RUSSE—Fancy cake or pudding, 1793.

CHECKERS—Game called in England *draughts,* P.

CHECKS—Counters, B.

CHEMILOON—Combination undergarment for women, B.

CHESTNUT—Hackneyed joke or story, 1882.

CHIN—Unprofitable chatter, B.

CHINCE—A marble, B.

CHINCH or CHINTZ—Bedbug, 1705.

CHINCHBUG—Insect infesting grain, B.

CHINK—Chinaman.

CHIP—Disc of ivory, bone or the like, used in games, C.

CHIP IN—Contribute, join in, 1870.

CHIPPY—Derogatory term for young woman, C.

CHIPMUNK—Small squirrel, B.

CHIRIVARI—Noisy wedding serenade, B.

CHITLINS—Rags, B.

CHOCK UP—Close, tight, said of physical things, B.

CHOMPINS—Chewed food, B.

CHUCK-A-LUCK—A game, 1857.

CHUNK—Short-backed, solidly-built horse. (Mr. Thornton's definition, "a worthless horse," is one of the very few errors into which that careful and accurate writer has fallen.)

CHUNKY—Short and thick, 1776.

CHURCHISM—Adherence to ecclesiastical system, 1768.

CHURCHMAUL—To discipline ecclesiastically, B.

CIDER OIL—Preparation of cider and honey, B.

CIMLIN, CYMBLING—Kind of squash, B.

CINCH—Thing easily done.

CINCH—1. To put on the girth of a horse, 1872. 2. To fasten something securely, as a bargain.

CITIFIED, B.

CITIZENIZE—Make citizen of, 1811.

CITRON—Sweetmeat not made from citron, B.

CLAGGY (bread)—Heavy, C.

CLAIM—To assert, without demanding anything, B. (Used by some Northerners exactly as some Southerners use the antithetical word, *allow*.)

CLAMSHELL—Mouth, B.

CLAMTRAP—Mouth, 1800.

CLAPMATCH—Kind of sealskin, B.

CLAPMATCH, CLOCKMUTCH—Woman's cap, B.

CLASSY—Stylish, fine.

CLATTERMENTS—Belongings, C.

CLATTERWHACKING—Racket, B.

CLAWHAMMER—Long-tailed coat for evening wear, dress coat, swallow-tail, 1869.

CLEAR (liquid)—Undiluted, though perhaps muddy in appearance, C.

CLEAR GRIT—Unalloyed, genuine, 1825.

CLEARING—Land from which trees have been cut, 1817.

CLEAR OUT—Depart, 1824.

CLINGSTONE (peach)—Having flesh clinging to stone, B.

CLINGJOHN—Rye cake, B.

CLOSE OUT—Sell the entire stock, C.

CLOUDBURST—Sudden and violent storm, 1821.

CLOVE—Narrow valley, C.

COAST—Slide down hill, 1775.

COATEE—Small, tight military coat, 1775. (I think, though I cannot prove, that this word is of British origin.)

COB—Ear of corn after removal of grain, B.

COBBLER—1. A drink, 1855. 2. Kind of fruit pie, B.

COCKAROUSE—Person of consequence, 1624.

COCKTAIL—A drink, 1806.

C. O. D.—Collect on delivery, B.

CODDING—Fishing for cod, B.

CO-ED—Female at school for both sexes, 1909.

COFFIN BOAT—One used for duck-shooting, F.

COHEES—People of parts of Pennsylvania, from their use of the archaic "Quo' he," *quoth he,* B.

COLD SLAW—Corruption of coleslaw, chopped cabbage, 1794.

COLD SORE—Eruption about mouth, B.

COLLAPSITY, B.

COLLARDS—Colewort, kind of cabbage, 1818.

COLLECT—Pond supplied only by rain, B.

COLLECT—Obtain payment of a bill, C.

COLORED—Having negro blood, 1760.

COME DOWN—Supply money, B.

COME IN (said of female animal)—Produce young.

COMPASSIVE—Compassionate, B.

COMPLECTED—Having a certain complexion, 1839.

COMPLIMENT—Gift, B.

COMPUS—Sane, *compos mentis,* B.

CONCEDEDLY, 1882.

CONCERNED—Very greatly, B.

CONDUCTOR OF TRAIN—The English "guard," 1839.

CONFECTIONERY—Barroom, B.

CONFEDERATE—Southern rebel of 1861.

CONFERREES—Persons who confer, F.

CONFIDENCE MAN—Plausible and tricky cheat.

CONGRESSIONAL, P.

CONGRESSMAN—Member of House of Representatives as distinguished from Senator, though the Senate is part of Congress.

CONIACKER, KONIACKER—Counterfeiter of coin, B.

CONK—Person living near seashore, with connotation of his being a wrecker, B.

CONNIPTION—Mild hysterics, 1833.

CONNUBIATE—Act with, F.

CONSIDERABLE—1. A good deal; "he is considerable of a surveyor," 1816. 2. Very: "a body has to stir about considerable smart," B.

CONTESTEE—Contestant, F.

CONTRABAND—Negro, 1861. An American general called negro slaves contraband of war.

CONVENE—Be convenient for; "this road will convene the public," *i. e.*, will (not bring together, but) be convenient for the public, P.

COODIES—Extinct political party, 1814.

COOLER—Jail, 1884.

COOLLY, COULÉE—Gorge, ravine, B.

COON—1. Raccoon, 1839. 2. Negro.

COPPERHEAD—Northern sympathizer with the rebellion. First known appearance of the word in this sense (it having been previously used only to designate a venomous snake) was in the Cincinnati Commercial of Oct. 1, 1862.

CORDELLE—Tow line, 1826.

CORDUROY ROAD—Causeway of logs laid together transversely over rough or swampy ground, B.

CORN—Indian corn, maize, 1774. Slovenly contraction, much like saying "stock" for "live stock," as if the cattle were any more part of the "stock" of a farm than are the plows. It may be worth noting that people who call *live stock* "stock" are pretty certain also to insert wholly unnecessary and useless words in speaking of these animals, by saying that they keep so many "head of" cattle or sheep or the like. Blunders in speech are very apt to be reciprocal, as one may say.

CORNJUICE—Whiskey, B.

CORN TRASH—Husks or shucks of Indian corn.

CORNER—Get possession of the whole available supply of a commodity or stock, 1841.

CORPOROSITY—Abdomen, 1837.

CORRAL—Enclosure for animals, 1845.

COTCH—Catch, negro mispronunciation, B.

COUNCILMANIC—Pertaining to a councilman, 1861.

COUNT—Terrapin or the like large enough to be sold by count instead of measure, C.

COUNTRY JAKE—Backwoodsman, B.

COUNTY HOUSE—Almshouse, F.

COUPLE—A few, but more than two, B.

COVER A SHORT SALE—Buy stocks that one has sold without owning them, B.

COWCATCHER—Safety device in front of locomotive, 1838.

COWLICK—Bunch of hair running the wrong way, C.

COWSKIN—Whip, 1789.

CRAB—Fast horse, 1848.

CRAB LANTERN—Kind of pie, 1818.

CRAB SCHOONER—Kind of vessel, B.

CRACKAJACK—Adept, C.

CRACKER—Poor southern white, 1784.

CRACKLINGS—Cinders, B.

CRACK LOO—A game, B.

CRACK ON—Put on, B.

CRANK—Eccentric person, 1840.

CRAPS—A negroes' gambling game, F.

CRAWFISH—Crayfish, 1823.

CRAWM—Pile of rubbish, C.

CRAZYBONE—Point of elbow, "funnybone," B.

CREAMER—Apparatus for gathering cream.

CREAMERY—Kind of dairy, B.

CREASE—Shoot animal in top of neck, startling him more than hurting him, 1807.

CREEK—Small stream, 1674.

CREOLE—Native of the place, especially in New Orleans, person chiefly of French (and having no smallest intermixture of African) blood.

CROOK—Habitual criminal, 1886.

CROOKNECK—Kind of squash, 1801.

CROPPER—One who cultivates farm on shares, B.

CROSS TIMBER—Line of forest, B.

CROTCH—Fork of road or river, 1767.

CROTCHICAL—Crotchety, B.

CROWD—A number of people either actually together or loosely associated by a common interest; a "push," 1834.

CROWER—Cock, B.

CRULLER—Fried cake, 1814.

CRUSH—Foolishly exaggerated fondness for a person, C.

CRY—Publish marriage banns, B.

CUFFY—Negro, B.

CURIOS—Curiosities, B.

CUSPIDORE—Spittoon, 1779.

CUSSEDNESS—Perversity, 1866. (I believe the word to be much older than this date.)

CUSSWORD—Profane oath, 1872.

CUSTOM-MADE (clothing)—Made to order, F.

CUT—Absent one's self from prayers, lectures or the like, B.

CUT AND DRIED—Arranged in advance, B.

CUT CAPERS, CUT DIDOES—Act in a frolicsome way.

CUT DIRT—Run, 1833.

CUT A SPLURGE—Make great display, B.

CUT-OFF—1. Shorter route than is usually followed, 1818. 2. New and shorter course of a river, 1830.

CUT ROUND—Fly about, make display, B.

CUT UNDER—Undersell, B.

CUTTER—Small sleigh, 1811.

CYMBLING—Cimlin, *q. v.*

## D

DAGO—Person of South European blood, 1832.

DAISY, DANDY—Thing first-rate of its kind, F.

DARE for *may?* "Dare we have a holiday?" C.

DARKY—Negro, 1775.

DAYDOWN—Sunset, C.

DEACON—To cheat, in various applications, 1866.

DEACON (calf)—Kill as soon as born, B.

DEACON (hymn)—Read aloud, line by line, 1831.

DEAD BROKE—Penniless, 1856.

DEADEN (tree)—Kill, B.

DEADHEAD—Person who gets admission or transportation gratis, 1849.

DEAD RABBITS—New York rowdies, 1858.

DECEDENT—Deceased person, B.

DECLENSION, DECLINATION—Refusal, declining, P.

DEHORN—Corruption of *dishorn*, F.

DEMOTE—Reverse of *promote*, 1909.

DENGUE—Kind of fever, 1828.

DESPERATE—Very, C.

DICKER—Haggle, bargain, barter, 1802.

DIG—Hard student, 1837.

DING or DINGED—Damned, B.

DINGBATS—Money; anything used to spank with or to throw.

DINGLE—Storm door, C.

DIP—1. Pudding sauce, B. 2. Pickpocket.

DIPPER—Constellation Ursa Major, 1842.

DIPPY—Crazy.

DIRT—Earth, not implying uncleanness, as in "dirt road," B.

DISH GRAVY—Juice of meat that follows carving.

DITTY BAG—Sailor's housewife.

DIVE—Resort of the vilest character, 1882.

DIVIDE—Ridge of land from which streams flow in opposite directions, 1807.

DIZZY—Giddy in metaphorical sense, wild, heedless, F.

DOBBER—Float for fishline, B.

DOCK—Pier or wharf. Common newspaper blunder to say "a man jumped off the dock," meaning that he jumped into the dock.

DOCKET—List of cases for trial, 1790. In England a docket is a list of judgments rendered.

DOCKWALLOPER—Loiterer around docks, B.

DOCTOR—Cook on ship, 1821.

DOD ROT IT—Euphemistic oath, B.

DODGER—1. Kind of biscuit, 1834. 2. Small hand-bill, 1877.

DOG—Promissory note, 1833. Thornton says this is obsolete, but I have heard it more than once within a year or two.

DOGGERY—Low drinking place, 1835.

DOINGS—Food, 1833.

DO ME—Answer my purpose; such a thing "will do me," 1846.

DONATE—Give. (Donation is old English.)

DONE with past participle, "He's done gone," B.

DONOCK, DORNICK—Stone, 1840.

DOODLEBUG—Kind of beetle, B.

DOOM—To tax, P.

DOUBLE (house)—Having rooms on each side of entrance hall, 1768.

DOUBLE-JADED, to ride—To ride with pillion, 1835.

DOUBLE RIPPER—Kind of sled, B.

DOUGH—Money, 1851.

DOUGH HEAD—Fool, B.

DOWN COUNTRY—Seaboard, B.

DOZY—Partly decayed, F.

DRAW—Movable part of drawbridge, 1786.

DRAW A BEAD—Aim gun or pistol, B.

DRESS SUIT CASE—Kind of traveling bag.

DRINK—Water in river, bay or lake, B.

DRIVEWAY—Passage for vehicles, B.

DRIVING PARK—Racecourse, B.

DROP in phrase "to get the drop on somebody"—To have him at your mercy, F.

DROP LETTER—Letter to person in same place, 1844.

DROP LIGHT—Gaslight swinging from chandelier or connected with it by flexible tube, T.

DRUDGE—Raw whiskey, C.

DRUGSTORE—The *"chemist's shop"* of England, F. (But *druggist* is an old English word.)

DRY—Having law prohibiting sale of intoxicants, as "a dry State."

DRY GOODS—Cloth and the like, 1777.

DRY UP—Be silent, 1856.

DUDE—Person who thinks too much about his clothes, 1880 or earlier.

DUMB BETTY—Kind of washing machine, B.

DUMBWAITER—Small elevator from kitchen to pantry, 1864 (but in use much earlier). The dumbwaiter of old English writers was quite another thing.

DUMP—Throw down promiscuously, 1851.

DUMPAGE—Privilege of dumping, B.

DUNFISH—Codfish cured in a special way, B.

DUNGAREE—Kind of vessel, B.

DUNKY—Awkwardly thick, B.

DURNED—Damned, B.

DUSTER—Overgarment to protect ordinary clothing from dust, 1864.

DUTCHMAN—Piece of wood or stone inserted to fill hollow, B.

## E

EAST in phrase "about east"—In a lively way (prior to 1855).

EARHOOP—Earring, 1808.

EARLOCK—Hair over ear, 1855.

EARTAB—Covering for ear, 1855. (I think older.)

EAT—To feed, 1842.

EBENEZER—Irascibility, 1836.

EDITORIAL—Article by the editor of the journal in which it appears.

ELECTRICUTE—Put to death by electric shock.

ELL—Extension of building at right angles to main structure, T.

ENTHUSE—Become, or make, enthusiastic, 1859. Very vulgar.

EPISCOPIZE—Bring under bishop's authority, 1767.

ESCOPETTE—Kind of firearm, 1805.

EUROPEAN PLAN (hotel)—Charging separately for rooms and for meals, with rules rarely found in Europe, and formerly not found there at all.

EVENER—Whiffletree, B.

EVENING—Afternoon, B. Heard only at the South.

EVENTUATE—Occur, happen, work out, 1789.

EVERGLADES—Swampy grasslands, 1827.

EVERY WHICH WAY—In all directions, F.

EVINCIVE—Indicative, 1806.

EXCHANGEABILITY, P.

EXCHANGES—Periodicals received by publishers from other publishers, as distinguished from those paid for in money, 1848.

EXCURSIONIST, B.

EXECUTIVE—Chief magistrate, 1787.

EXECUTIVE (session)—Secret, not implying executive business.

EXERCISES—Proceedings at a meeting, 1830.

EXFLUNCT—Demolish, 1832.

EXPRESS—Rapid conveyance of merchandise or baggage by companies organized for that purpose, 1846.

## F

FACULATE—Arrange, B.

FAIR—Exhibition, not primarily for making sales. Adopted in England; the Westminster Review so used the word as long ago as 1881.

FAKER—Street vendor or performer; swindler, T.

FALLING WEATHER—Rainy period, B.

FALLWAY—Opening in floor for hoisting goods through, B.

FAN—Frequenter of athletic contests.

FANTAIL—Sternwheel steamer, C.

FAT (wood)—Resinous, 1808.

FAZE—Disturb, embarrass, 1845.





FEAST—Fastidious, B.

FEATHER (said of cream)—Separate into flakes, 1816.

FEATURE—Display something, F.

FEDERALIST—Extinct political party, P.

FEEL LIKE doing something—Feel inclined to do it, 1855.

FETCH (a scream)—Utter, F.

FETCHING—Pretty, attractive. I doubt whether this piece of slang is of American origin. Miss Braddon used it in "Asphodel," 27.297 (1881).

FETCH UP—Stop suddenly, B.

FETTERLOCK—Fetlock, B.

F. F. V.—First families of Virginia.

FIAT MONEY—Irredeemable paper currency, 1880.

FIENDISHMENT—Fiendish spirit.

FILE—Cloth for washing floor, B.

FILL—Embankment, 1850.

FILLIPEEN, PHILOPENA—Game with nuts having two kernels, 1857. Much older, I am sure.

FINDINGS—Small supplementary materials.

FIRE AWAY—Go ahead, B.

FIRE BUG—Incendiary, 1872.

FIRE HUNT—Hunting with light as decoy, 1826.

FISH STORY—Incredible statement, 1819.

FIST in phrase "to make a fist"—To succeed or fail, according as it is "a good fist" or "a bad fist."

FIX UP—Adjustment of difficulty, B.

FIXINGS—Arrangements, embellishments, food, B.

FIZZLE—Ridiculous failure, 1847.

FLAT—Without interest, 1841.

FLATS—Low lands, B.

FLAT BROKE—Penniless, B.

FLAT OUT—Collapse, B.

FLATFOOTED—Downright, resolutely, 1846.

FLEABITTEN (horse)—Dotted with specks, F.

FLOAT—Preliminary certificate of purchase of public land, 1837.

FLOATS—Mineral in fine powder, T.

FLOATER—Person who may vote either way, 1883.

FLOODWOOD—Driftwood, 1822.

FLOOR in phrase "to have the floor," have right to speak, P.

FLOORWALKER—Usher and overseer in a store, 1884 (I think older).

FLOWAGE—Quantity of flow, 1830.

FLUBDUB—Vapid nonsense, F.

FLUME—Channel for water, 1792.

FLUNKY—1. Unsuccessful speculator, 1841. 2. Student who fails in recitation, 1859.

FLUSH—Well supplied with money, 1840.

FLUTTERWHEEL—Small waterwheel, B.

FLY—Swamp, B.

FLYER—Venture, speculation, 1870.

FOOFOO—Foolish fellow, B.

FOOT (a bill)—Pay it, 1844.

FOOT HILL—Hill at foot of mountain, 1873.

FORK—Branch of road or river, 1753.

FORK OVER—Give or pay money, B.

FORK UP—Pay, B.

FORWARDING MERCHANT—Dealer who receives goods for others and sends them elsewhere for sale, wholesaler, B.

FRAGGLE—Rob, B.

FRAIL—Beat, 1851.

FRAME HOUSE—Wooden house, 1784.

FRAME-UP—Fraudulent evidence against innocent person.

FREESTONE (peach)—Having pulp easily detached from stone, F.

FREEZE—Frosty weather, "cold snap," B.

FREEZER—Device for freezing liquid. (I think Bartlett, Farmer and Clapin are wrong in defining "a refrigerator.")

FREEZE OUT—Compel participant in an undertaking to retire, 1882.

FREIGHT—Goods carried by rail as well as by sea, 1813.

FRENCH, FRENCHY, FRENCHING—Terms indicating dislike.

FROG—Iron plate joining two rails, 1860.

FRONT NAME—Given (or "Christian") name, B.

FROSTED—Frost-bitten, 1807.

FROWCHEY—Furbelowed old woman, B.

FUDGE—Kind of candy, C.

FULL CHISEL—At full speed, 1832.

FUNDUM—Sea bottom, B.

FURORE—Vogue, popular passion.

FYKE—Kind of net, 1679.

## G

GALE—Semi-hysterical excitement, B.

GALL—1. Low land in Florida, 1776. 2. Impudence, cheek, 1891.

GAM—Social visit, B.

GANDER PARTY—One of men only, B.

GANG-SAW—Frame holding a number of saws parallel, 1821.

GANGSTER—Member of a band of city rowdies.

GANTY—Elegant, 1772.

GAR or ALLIGATOR GAR—Kind of fish, 1765.

GARDEN TRUCK—Vegetables for market, B.

GAVEL—Mallet used by chairman of meeting, B.

GAWNICUS—Simpleton, B.

GEAR UP—Harness, F.

GENTILE (among Mormons)—Persons not of the faith, B.

GERMAN—Party for dancing the German cotillion, 1879.

GERRYMANDER—Arrangement of political divisions to give unfair advantage to dominant party, 1811.

GET OFF (a speech)—Deliver, 1849.

GET ROUND—Bamboozle, fool, trick, persuade, cajole, B.

GET THE MITTEN—Have one's suit rejected, 1838.
GET THERE—Succeed, C.
GIBE, JIBE—1. Bring sailboat into wind, 1791. 2. Harmonize with, 1857.
GIGGIT—Convey rapidly, 1862.
GIMBAL (jaw)—Loose and projecting, B.
GIN MILL—Barroom, B.
GINGERSNAP—Thin, brittle cake, flavored with ginger.
GIRT—To have a certain girth or circumference, T.
GISM—Spirit, courage, B.
GIT (get)—Go, clear out, B.
GIT (to do anything)—Be permitted, B.
GIVE AWAY—Betray, 1862.
GIVY—Yielding to pressure, B.
GLARE (ice)—Very smooth, B.
Go in phrase "make a go of it—Succeed, B.
GOATEE—Chin whisker, "imperial," 1847.
GO BACK ON ONE—Desert, leave in lurch, 1868.
GOBBLER—Male turkey, 1800.
GOBBLE UP—Remove thoroughly, as if by swallowing, 1861.
GO BY—Call on, stop at, P.
GO FOR, GO IN FOR—Favor, 1834.
GO FOR—Attack vigorously, 1838.
GO OFF—Expire, 1856.
GO OFF—Beginning; "there may be blunders in the go-off," C.
GO THROUGH—1. Go directly, without change, as in phrase, "this car goes through to Chicago," B.

2. Examine person thoroughly and rob him of whatever the assailant wants, 1867.

GO UNDER, GO UP—Fail completely, B.

GOLLY—Euphemistic oath, B.

GOMBO, GUMBO—A plant, and soup made from it, 1810.

GONE CASE, GONE COON, GONE GANDER, GONE GOOSE, GONER—Person in hopeless misfortune or fatally ill.

GONENESS—Sensation of weakness, 1853.

GONUS—Stupid fellow, B.

G. O. P.—Republican ("grand old") party, F.

GOOSE—To repair boots, B.

GOOSE EGG—Zero, failure, C.

GOPHER—Kind of turtle; mole, B.

GOSSAMER—Thin waterproof cloak, F.

GOSPEL LOT—Lot set aside for church, B.

GOTHAM—New York City, 1800.

GOUGE—Cheat, fraud, robbery, 1845.

GRAB BAG, GRAB BOX—One containing trifles, from which a patron, paying a fee, may make selection by feeling, 1864. (I think older.)

GRACIOUS!—Equivalent of the French ejaculation *"Mon Dieu,"* B.

GRADE (cattle)—Formerly those of mixed blood, now restricted to those having thoroughbred blood on one side only, F.

GRADE—To reduce to even slopes, as a road or path, B.

GRADE (of a road)—Degree of ascent or descent, 1835.

GRAFT—To repair boots, B.

GRAFT—Dishonest gain, boodle, 1901.

GRANDACIOUS, GRANDIFEROUS—Magnificent, B.

GRANGER—Member of order of Patrons of Husbandry, farmer, B.

GRANNIFIED—Like an aged person, B.

GRANNY—Improperly tied knot, that will come loose, 1859.

GRAVY—Juice, B.

GRAYBACK—Louse; Confederate soldier in rebellion of 1861.

GREASER—Mexican, 1849.

GREASEWOOD—A western plant, 1845.

GREENBACK—United States bill, 1862.

GREENBACKERS—Extinct political party favoring irredeemable paper currency, 1876.

GREEN GOODS—Counterfeit bills, F.

GRIFFIN, GRIFFE—Mulatto, B. The British *griffin* is a European newly arrived in India, corresponding to the *new-chum* of Australia and the *tenderfoot* of our own wild West.

GRIP, GRIPSACK—Traveling bag, 1880. Vulgar.

GRIST—Large number or quantity, 1833.

GRITTING—Grating dry grain into meal, B.

GRITTY—Courageous, determined, 1847.

GROCERY—Grocer's establishment, B.

GROGGERY—Barroom of low class, 1824.

GROG SHOP—Barroom, 1790.

GROUND BRIDGE—Corduroy road on bottom of stream to facilitate fording, B.

GROUND HOG—Woodchuck, 1789.

GROUND HOG DAY—Candlemas, Feb. 2, B.

GROUND NUT, GROUND PEA—Peanut, B.

GROUND SLUICING—Process of removing earth by stream of water, 1859.

GROUP MEETING—Religious meeting running for some days under leaders serving in rotation, B.

GROUTY—Ill natured, 1836.

GROWLER—Vessel in which beer is carried from a bar room by a customer, to drink elsewhere, C.

GRUB STAKE—Supplies furnished to prospectors in mining districts by men who are to share the profits, F.

GUANO—Birds' excrement and remains, used as land fertilizer, 1604.

GUAVA—West Indian fruit, B.

GUBERNATORIAL—Pertaining to a governor, 1734.

GUFF—Empty talk, 1888. (I think older.)

GUIDER—Guidon, B.

GUINEA KEET—Guinea fowl or egg, B.

GULCH (originally kolch)—Deep ravine, 1832.

GUM—Name of various southern trees.

GUMBO—Kind of hard soil, 1835.

GUMS—India rubber overshoes, "rubbers," 1859.

GUM A SAW—Punch out the teeth, B.

GUM GAME—Rascally trick, B.

GUN—Pistol, recent vulgarism, as bad as the British way of using *gun* to designate the man that carries the weapon.

GUNNING A STOCK—Depressing it, B.

GURRY—Preparation of fish livers.

GUSH—Great abundance.

GUSHER—Freely flowing well, especially of oil, 1886.

GUY—Make fun of, 1872.

## H

HACKMATACK—Larch tree, 1792.

HAIL FROM—Live at, B.

HALFBREED—1. Person of mixed blood, 1775. 2. Supporter of President Garfield in 1880.

HALF-FACED CAMP—Kind of forest shelter, B.

HALF JO—Portuguese coin, 1772.

HALF-WIDOW—Woman with shiftless husband, B.

HAMFATTER—Poor actor, barnstormer, F.

HAND DOG—Andiron, B.

HANDGLASSES—Spectacles, so says Bartlett, but I think the word means small mirrors, that can be held in the hand.

HANDLE—1. To overcome opponent, B. 2. To deal in, 1888.

HANDWRITE—Handwriting, B.

HANG OF A THING, TO GET—To master it, learn how to do it, 1845.

HANG-BIRD—Oriole, 1851.

HANG 'ROUND—Loiter about, B.

HANG UP—Trust for goods; get something on credit.

HANNAHILL—Black sea bass, B.

HANT—Ghost, F.

HARD CASE—Dissipated, worthless fellow, 1842.

HARD (cider)—Fermented, intoxicating, 1840.

HARD COAL, SOFT COAL—Anthracite and bituminous respectively.

HARDHACK—A plant, B.

HARD MONEY—Coin, F.

HARDPAN—Stratum of earth, not rock, but almost equally impervious to water, 1821.

HARDSHELL BAPTISTS—Those holding strongly to certain doctrines, 1842.

HARDSHELL DEMOCRATS—Adherents of the party who see no virtue in any other, B.

HARDTACK—Dry biscuit, B.

HARM as adjective—Disrespectful, unkind; "he never said a harm word of you," B.

HARSEL STUFF—Household stuff, B.

HAY BARRACK—Unenclosed shelter for hay, B.

HAYSEED—Countryman, T.

HEAD OFF—Turn from his purpose, C.

HEADCHEESE—Preparation of head and feet of swine, B.

HEADRIGHTS—Rights to land under certain conditions, B.

HEAR TO (generally with negative)—To be willing to consider

HEELED—Armed, F.

HEELER—Hanger on, parasite, 1881.

HEIR—To inherit, F.

HELLBENDER—1. Kind of salamander, 1812. 2. Indefinite meaning; "a hellbender of a spree," B.

HELLBOX—Receptacle for rubbish, F.

HELLION—Hell hound, irredeemable villain, 1830.

HEN-HUSSY—Effeminate man, C.

HEN PARTY—Gathering of women only, F.

HERD'S GRASS—Name of a variety, 1747.

HESSIAN—Fighter for pay, ruffian, B.

HESSIAN FLY—Insect destructive to grain, B.

HEWGAG—College word of unascertainable meaning, 1855.

HICKORY—Carya tree, 1705.

HICKORY SHIRT—Coarse garment worn by laborers, 1857.

HIDE AND COOP—Hide and Seek, 1850.

HIFER—To loiter, B.

HIGHBINDER—Contemptuous appellation for various disreputable classes, 1806.

HIGHBROW—Intellectual person, recent slang.

HIGHFALUTIN—Bombastic talk, 1848.

HIGH MUCK-A-MUCK—Person of importance, F.

HIGH-STUDDED—Airy, affected, B.

HIGH-TONED—Aristocratic, C.

HIGHWINES—Form of impure alcohol, 1881.

HIKE—To walk vigorously, 1872.

HINDSIGHT—Antithesis of *foresight,* F.

HITCH UP—Harness horses, 1857.

HITHER AND YON—Here and there, P.

HOCK—To pawn.

HOECAKE—Cake of Indian meal, baked before fire, 1787.

HOG AGE—Age between boyhood and manhood, B.

HOG MANE—Mane cut short, 1767.

HOG MINDER—Swineherd, B.

HOGWALLOW—Special kind of crack in surface of earth, 1840.

HOLD ON—Wait, stop, B.

HOLD OVER—Have the advantage of an opponent, C.

HOLD UP—Robbery, with threat of violence, 1887.

HONEYFOGLE—To humbug, swindle, mislead, B.

HOODLUM—Rowdy, 1868.

HOODOO—Something bringing bad luck, reverse of mascot, 1889.

HOOK—Small cape in river or bay, 1832.

HOOK in phrase "on one's own hook"—For one's self, independently, 1812.

HOOKEY, to play—To play truant, B.

HOOPLE—Child's plaything, hoop for trundling, B.

HOOSIER—Indianian, B.

HOOTER—Trifle, perhaps corruption of *iota*, 1839.

HOPPERCAR—Car shaped like hopper of mill, B.

HOPTOAD—Child's word for *toad*, 1827.

HORNSWOGGLE—Foolery, deception, 1852.

HORSECAR—Car drawn by horses or to carry horses, B.

HORSE RAILROAD—The British *tramway,* 1858.

HORSE SENSE—Practical wisdom, 1833.

HOT SLAW—Hot cole-slaw. From corruption of *cole-slaw* into *cold slaw,* just as *highbelia* was formed from misunderstanding of the name of the plant *lobelia.*

HOUSEKEEP—To keep house, B.

HOWDY—Desideratum accomplished, B.

HUBBLES—Rough places, C.

HUCKLEBERRY—A plant and its fruit, 1670.

HUCKSTER—Peddler, C.

HULY—Uproar, B.

HUMP (one's self)—Bestir, F.

HUNK in phrase "all hunk," which means all right, safe, prosperous, B.

HUNK—Very fine, tiptop, B.

HUNKIDORY—All right, B.

HURRA'S NEST—Confusion, disorder, 1829.

HURRICANE DECK—Highest deck of steamer, 1835.

HURRYMENT—Confused haste, B.

HUSKING—Stripping husks from Indian corn, B.

HUSKY—Strong, 1910.

HUSTLE—Bestir one's self vigorously, 1890.

HYPER—To bustle, B.

HYST—Violent fall, B.

## I

I DAD—Meaningless ejaculation, B.

IDEA—Opinion. "I have an idea that he has gone."

INAUGURAL—Address on taking office, B.

INAUGURATE—Begin, B.

INCLINED in phrase "inclined to"—Incline.

INDIAN CORN—Maize, 1621.

INDIAN FILE—Single file, 1791.

INDIAN GIVER—Person who takes back what he has given, B.

INDIAN SUMMER—St. Martin's Summer, 1794.

INDISCIPLINE—Absence of discipline, 1783.

INFLATIONIST—Advocate of indefinite expansion of irredeemable currency, 1877.

INFORMATORY—Giving information, 1862.

INFRACT—Break, infringe on, 1798.

IN INTEREST—Interested in the matter, F.

INJUNCT—Forbid by injunction, 1880. (I think older.) A better word than *enjoin* when forbidding is meant. The lawyers have reversed the meaning of *enjoin.*

INSIDE OF—In less time than, 1877.

INSIDE TRACK—Advantageous position, B.

INSTITUTE—Meeting, convention, 1881.

INTERVALE—Low alluvial land along river, 1653.

INTERVIEWER—1869.

INTO (with some figure)—Within; "I had enough money into six cents," B.

INTY—Certainly, B.

IRISH (potato)—White, B.

IRRELIABILITY—Untrustworthiness, 1862.

ISSUANCE—Act of issuing, 1865.

ITEMIZE—1864.
ITEMIZER—1860.

## J

JACKSTONES—Child's game, B.
JAG—Spree, C.
JAM UP—1. Crowded, 1825. 2. "Slap up," "bang up," extra fine, 1853.
JAMBOREE—Frolic, row, B.
JAYHAWKER—Guerilla, 1856.
JELL—Harden into jelly, 1830.
JERKED (meat)—Dried, B.
JESSIE in phrase to "give him Jessie," *i.e.*, belabor him, literally or figuratively, 1844.
JIBE—Variant of gibe.
JIG—Artificial squid, for trolling, 1858.
JIGGER—Small fishing vessel, B.
JIGGERED—Euphemistic oath.
JIGSAW—Vertical saw, operated by treadle or power, 1873.
JIMBERJAWED—Having projecting lower jaw, 1834.
JIM CROW CARS—Cars for negroes only, 1900.
JIMDANDY—Superfine, F.
JIMJAMS—Delirium tremens, B.
JIMSON (Jamestown) WEED—Stramonium, 1687.
JITNEY—Five cent piece; bus on which the fare is 5 cents, 1912.
JOBBING HOUSE—Wholesale mercantile establishment, B.

JOHN—Chinaman, 1857.

JOHNNY—"Confederate" soldier in rebellion of 1861.

JOHNNYCAKE—Cake of Indian meal, 1775.

JOINT—Establishment of ill repute, 1883.

JOSH—Joke with, make fun of, 1891.

JOUR—Journeyman, B.

JOY-RIDE—Ride for pleasure, with connotation of some irregularity or impropriety, 1909.

JUBA—Negro, negro dance, 1834.

JUDGMATICAL—Judicious, 1774.

JUDY—Fool, B.

JUMP BAIL—Forfeit it by absconding, B.

JUMPER—1. Kind of sled, 1823. 2. Man's jacket, 1853.

JUMPING-OFF PLACE—End of everything, 1826.

JURY-FIXER—Briber of juryman, 1882.

## K

KARIMPTON—Squad, B.

KATOWSE—Din, tumult, rumpus, B.

KATYDID—An insect, 1800.

KAY or KEY—Islet in the sea, B.

KEEN about—Fond of; recent slang.

KEENER—Shrewd person, B.

KEEPS, To PLAY FOR—To play for stakes which the winner keeps, T.

KER—Prefix, intensifying violent action, 1852.

KEROSENE—Petroleum refined for burning, B.

KIBLINGS—Small fish used for bait, B.

KICKER—Objector, independent, 1799.

KILL—Arm of the sea, stream, B.

KILLDEER—Kind of bird, B.

KINDLERS, KINDLINGS—Small pieces of wood for starting fire, B.

KINGBOLT—Part of wagon, B.

KINKY—Eccentric, crotchety, B.

KINNIKINNICK, KILLIKINNICK—Preparation of tobacco, B.

KITTYCORNERED—Diagonally, C.

KIUSE—Native pony, B.

KNICKERBOCKERS—Short breeches, B.

KNOCK—Express disapproval of.

KNOCK-DOWN—Steal part of another person's money that has been entrusted to the thief, 1882. (I think older.)

KNOWNOTHINGS—Extinct political party, 1853.

KONK—Same as conk.

KU KLUX KLAN—Secret association of southern whites after close of rebellion, 1866.

## L

LAGNIAPPE—Small gift to customer, brottus, 1853.

LANDSCRIP—Certificate that buyer of public land has made payment, 1862.

LAPSTREAK—Clinker-built boat, 1771.

LARIAT—Rope for catching animals, lasso, B.

LARRIGAN—Kind of moccasin, C.

LATTER-DAY SAINTS—Mormons, B.

LAVE—Get up, B.

LAW SAKES—For the Lord's sake, B.

LAY—Terms of bargain, price, B.

LAY OUT—1. An outfit, 1867. 2. Define boundaries and subdivisions, 1748. 3. Reduce to helplessness, 1829. 4. Intend, B.

LAYERING—Reproducing (as strawberries) by runners, 1799.

LAZE—To idle, F.

LEADER—Attachment of fish-hook to line, B.

LEGGINS—Wrappers for legs, B.

LENGTHY—Rather long, "longish," 1793. Used by Dickens (in "American Notes," to be sure, but) in a way to lead one to infer that the term was familiar to him, as he hated Americanisms and seldom if ever used one without calling attention to the country of its origin. It may be old English.

LET DOWN—Descent, fall, drop, B.

LET UP—Release, relief, 1837.

LEVEE—Dike, embankment along river, 1797.

LEVY—Elevenpence, 1832.

LICK—Place where animals lick the soil, 1751.

LICKS—Efforts, B.

LICKETYSPLIT—Headlong, B.

LIE LOW—Keep quiet and watch, B.

LIGHT BREAD—Bread made with yeast, B.





LIGHTNING-BUG—Firefly, 1797.

LIGHT OUT—Decamp, 1878. (I believe it to be very much older.)

LIGHTWOOD—Wood that burns readily, 1705.

LILY PAD—Water-lily leaf, B.

LINE—Route of railroad, coach or steamer, B.

LINER—Steamer running regularly on settled route, B.

LINES—Reins, B.

LIST—Method of cultivating crops, B.

LIVE OAK—Quercus virens, 1610.

LIVING PRICE, LIVING WAGE—One at which a living can be made.

LIVING-ROOM—Family parlor, B.

LIVE OUT—Be a servant, B.

LOAF—Idle away one's time, B.

LOAFER—Idle vagabond, 1835.

LOBBY—Influence legislation by cajolery or bribery. Also collective word for persons who make business of so doing.

LOBBYGOW—A "pal" in a bad sense, October, 1912.

LOBLOLLY—Kind of tree, 1775.

LOCALIZE—Prepare local items for newspaper, 1861.

LOCK HORNS—Engage in desperate combat, 1839.

LOCO—Disease of cattle, believed to come from eating loco-weed, F.

LOCOFOCO—1. Friction match, 1834. 2. Old name for Democratic party, 1835.

LOCUST—Kind of tree, 1640.

LOGGER—Lumberman, 1857.

LOGIES—Poor codfish, B.

LOG-ROLLING—Co-operation, whether physical (1833) or political (1821).

LOGY—Heavy, dull, stupid, B.

LONG of a stock—Holding it, B.

LONGSHOREMAN—Stevedore, B.

LONGSHORT—A woman's garment, 1851.

LONG SUGAR, LONG SWEETENING—Molasses, B.

LOON—Kind of bird, B.

LOOSENESS—Absence of restraint, 1836.

LOP DOWN—Settle down carelessly, 1840.

LOST CAUSE—The southern rebellion of 1861.

LOT—Piece of land, 1661.

LOTS—A large number or quantity, B.

LOW DOWN—Degraded, contemptible, 1850 .

LOW FLUNG—Very degraded, 1843.

LUGS—1. Tobacco leaves prepared for market, B. 2. Airs, style, in phrase "to put on lugs," 1902.

LUMBER—Timber, 1663.

LUMP IT—Meaningless phrase used only in antithesis to *like it,* 1833. There is however an old English verb *lump,* to look sulky.

LUNKHEAD—Stupid fellow, 1889.

## M

MA'AM SCHOOL—One kept by woman, B.

MACHINE—Political organization, 1876.

MACKINACK—Kind of blanket, 1839.

MADSTONE—Stone supposed to heal bite of mad dog, 1864.

MAIDENLAND—Land that a man gets with his wife and loses at her death, B.

MAIL—Matter sent through post-office, B.

MAIZE—Indian corn, 1598.

MAKE or MAKE OUT—Grow, extend; said of point of land running out into water, sometimes of forests or hills extending into plain.

MAKE GOOD—Accomplish an unstated purpose, succeed, do what is expected of one, "get there," 1911.

MAKE TIME—Proceed rapidly, 1842.

MAKE TRACKS—Go, run, 1833.

MAMMY—Negro nurse, B.

MANGO—Preparation of green muskmelon, B.

MARABOU—Person having a certain small proportion of negro blood, B.

MAROONING—Picnicking, P.

MARYWALKERS—Trousers worn by women, F.

MASH—To engage, said of cog-wheels, B.

MASHER—Person who forces attention on women, F.

MASS MEETING—Gathering of people for specified purpose, 1840.

MATCH—Set fire to, B.

MAUL—Make, prepare, 1677.

MAVERICKS—Unbranded cattle, B.

MAX—Make best possible (maximum) recitation, B.

MEAN—Unkind, disobliging, or (in the case of animals) vicious.

MEDIUM—Person through whom come messages from ghosts, B.

MENHADEN—Kind of herring, 1792.

MESA—Elevated plain, 1795.

MESTIZO—Half breed, 1582.

METIS—Offspring of white person and quadroon, B.

MICK—Irishman.

MIDDLINGS—Coarse flour; part of a porker, B.

MIDGET—Sand fly, B.

MILEAGE—1. Allowance for traveling expenses, 1754. 2. Tickets giving right to travel on railroad to a certain limit of miles, generally 500 or 1000.

MILL—Tenth of a cent.

MIND—To remind, B.

MINK—Small fur bearing animal, B.

MINUTEMAN—Person ready for service at a minute's notice, 1774.

MISCEGENATION—Intermarriage between whites and blacks, 1864.

MISSION SCHOOL—School for poor children, B.

MISSIONATE—Act as missionary, 1816.

MISSTEP—Wrong step, stumble, 1837.

MITTEN, TO GET—To be rejected by a lady, 1838.

MIXED TICKET—Election ticket voting for candidates of different parties, F. The term itself, as applied to railroad tickets partly of one class and

partly of another, is familiar to all Englishmen who travel on the Continent.

MOCK AUCTION—Auction characterized by fraud, B.

MOKE—Negro, 1871.

MOLLY MAGUIRES—Anarchistic society in coal region, B.

MONITOR—Small iron-clad vessel with turret, 1862.

MONKEY—Weight of pile-driver, B.

MONKEY BUSINESS—Foolish trifling, C.

MONKEY SHINES—Semi-mischievous or playful tricks, 1847.

MONTE—Game with cards, B.

MOONDOWN—Time of moon's setting, B.

MOONGLADE—Track of moonlight on water, B.

MOPBOARD—Horizontal board inside house, at base of wall, B.

MORTICIAN—Undertaker, 1896.

MOSES BOAT—1765.

MOSEY—To move, 1836.

MOSSBACK—Person "behind the times," 1850.

MOSSBUNKER—Fish resembling herring, 1818.

MOTH MILLER—Flying form of clothes moth, B.

MOTTE—Clump of trees in open country, 1844.

MOUNTAIN LAMB—Deer killed out of season, C.

MOURNER—Penitent at religious meeting, B.

MOVIE—Moving picture; recent.

MUCKER—Coarse fellow, C.

MUCKRAKER—Person who delights to turn up scandal

MUD HEN—Female speculator in stocks, 1876.

MUD HOOK—Anchor, B.

MUGWUMP—Independent in politics, 1835.

MULEY SAW—"Mill saw not hung in the gate," B.

MUNG (news)—Confused, unintelligible, 1844.

MURPHY—White potato, B.

MUSH—Porridge, 1671.

MUSKRAT, MUSQUASH—Beaver-like animal, 1624.

MUSSY—Disordered, dirty, B.

MUSTANG—Wild prairie horse, 1808.

MUSTER OUT (troops)—Discharge, B.

MUST NOT, MUST ONLY, for *may not, may only,* when the speaker intends, not to say that there is no obligation, but to say that the doing of the thing is prohibited, or prohibited except under conditions. (As in the case of *cannot* or *can only* for *may not* or *may only,* I am not sure that this is distinctively an American error.)

MUTTONHEAD—Stupid fellow, B.

## N

NAIL—To arrest, B.

NAKED (Possessor)—Undisputed, de facto, B.

NARY—Ne'er a, B.

NARY RED—Not a cent, 1857.

NECK OF THE WOODS—Place, not implying proximity of forest, 1851.

NECKTIE SOCIABLE—Hanging by vigilance committee, 1878.

NECKWEAR—Collars and neckties, F.

NEIGHBORHOOD OF (with quantity or number)—Near, about, as "in the neighborhood of forty acres," 1857.

NERVE—Courage, independence, cheek.

NETOP—Crony, 1816.

N. G.—No go, no good, F.

NICELY (said of a person's health)—Well.

NICKEL—Half dime made of that metal, B.

NIFTY—Fine, stylish, 1868.

NIG—Revoke at cards, cheat, 1829.

NIGGERHEAD—1. Kind of tobacco, B. 2. Tussock above surface of swamp, 1859.

NIGGER HEAVEN—Highest gallery in theatre, T.

NIGGER OFF—Do something with large logs, 1834.

NIGGER OUT (land)—Exhaust, B.

NIGH UNTO, NIGH UPON—Almost, B.

NIGHTKEY—Latchkey, F.

NIGHT RIDERS—Marauders operating in gangs at night, 1909.

NIMSHI—Fool, 1853.

NINEPENCE—Twelve and a half cents, the old "shilling" of New York, 1828.

NIP AND TUCK—About even, 1833.

NIPPENT—Independent, B.

NOCAKE—Parched meal, B.

NON-COMMITTAL—Refusing to commit one's self, 1841.

NOODLEHEAD—Fool, C.

NORTHER—Cold north wind, 1844.
NORTHERNER—Resident of a northern state, 1840.
NOTE—Joke, B.
NOTIONATE—Fanciful, B.
NUB (of a story)—Point, gist, B.
NUTCAKE—Doughnut, B.
NUTMEG MELON—Cantaloupe, C.

## O

OAK BARRENS—Straggling oak forests, B.
OAK OPENINGS—Forests of stunted oaks, B.
OCCURRINGS—Occurrences, B.
OCTOROON—Offspring of white and quadroon, B.
OFF THE REEL—Immediately.
OFFAL—Inferior, but edible, parts of animal, B.
OFFISH—Unapproachable, unfriendly, 1842.
OFF OX—Contrary person, B.
OFFSET—Deduction from account, claimed by debtor, P.
O. K.—All right, 1790.
OKRA—The plant otherwise called gumbo, B.
OLD GLORY—The national flag, C.
OLD SCRATCH—The devil, B.
OLD SLEDGE—A game, 1838.
OLYCOOK—Fried cake, B.
OMNIBUS (bill)—One covering many subjects, 1842.
ON a certain street, where the English would say "in" it. In many cases, as in saying that "I live on

Sixth Street," the American practice is obviously to be preferred. One does not live "in" the street, unless one is a low-down vagrant. And if it be said that it is true that you live in a house but the house is itself in the street on which it abuts, it follows that London is not on the Thames but in it, the situation being exactly the same. Also the American practice has the authority of Carlyle, "Wilhelm Meister," 1.3 and 5.13.

ON HAND—Present, B.

ON TIME—Prompt, 1848.

OODLES—Abundance, B.

OPOSSUM—An animal, B.

OPPOSED in phrase "I am opposed to"—Oppose, P.

ORGANIC LAW—Charter, constitution, 1849.

OUT superfluous after various verbs, notably *try, help, win, lost, start,* as in phrases to "try out" something, to help a person "out," to "win out," and so on. I am not sure that this is an American peculiarity, and hope to learn that I am wrong in listing it here; but I have never heard it in Great Britain, or seen it in any printed piece of British Slang.

OUTFIT—Supply of necessaries, 1869.

OUTLAWED (debt)—One of which payment cannot be enforced, on account of lapse of time since it accrued, 1850.

OUT OF FIX, OUT OF WHACK—In disorder, B.

OUTS—Persons not holding office, B.

OUTSIDE—Beyond, beside, except, C.

OVERHEAD—Group of business expenses (rent, interest, fuel and the like) not readily divisible among the products; recent.

OVERSLAUGH—Bar in river, 1776.

OWN UP—Confess, 1862.

## P

PAAS—Easter, B.

PACK—Transport in packs, carry, 1844.

PADDLE—Spank, 1856.

PAINTER—Panther, 1803.

PAIR—Agreement of two persons, of opposite views, that neither of them will vote, F.

PALACE CAR—Pullman, B.

PALEFACE—White person as distinguished from Indian, 1822.

PALMETTO—A plant, 1555.

PANDOWDY—Bread and apples baked together, 1846.

PANEL HOUSE—House of prostitution and robbery, B.

PANHANDLE—Part of a state resembling in shape that article.

PANHANDLE—To beg on the street.

PANFISH—Fish adapted to frying, 1833.

PANNING—Separation of gold from earth, B.

PAN OUT—To result, 1881.

PANTALETTE—Ornamental addition to girls' drawers, 1846.

PAPPOOSE—Indian baby, P.

PARD—Partner, friend, 1854.

PARQUET—Part of first floor of theatre, F.

PARTYISM, 1844.

PASS (a dividend)—Decide not to pay it, B.

PASSAGE (of a bill)—Enactment, P.

PASSAGEWAY—Aisle, gangway, passage, F.

PATENTABLE, B.

PATENT OUTSIDES—Newspaper sheets furnished to publishers with one side already printed with miscellaneous matter and advertisements, the publisher putting what he likes on the other side, F.

PATROLMAN—Police officer of lowest grade, F.

PATROONS—Grantees of land under Dutch government, and their successors, 1758.

PAWKY—Out of health, C.

PAY DIRT—Gold-bearing earth that pays for working, 1857.

P. D. Q.—Pretty deuced quick, F.

PEACH—Fine thing, "daisy," T.

PEACH LEATHER—Edible preparation of peaches, B.

PEANUT—Fruit of *Arachis hypogæa,* 1826.

PECAN—Kind of nut, 1773.

PECCARY—Native pig, B.

PEELER—Crab just about to shed shell, B.

PEEL IT—Run fast, B.

PEEVY—Wooden lever, B.

PEG AWAY—Work industriously, B.

PEGGED OUT—Used up, B.

PELTER—Dealer in skins, 1856.
PEMMICAN—Preparation of meat, B.
PENNY—Cent, 1833.
PENTWAY—Private road, generally kept closed, B.
PEON—Laborer in Mexico and Central America, B.
PEPPERPOT—Kind of stew, 1704.
PERIAUGER, PIROGUE (and various other spellings)—Kind of canoe, 1666.
PEROOT—Ramble, explore, 1856.
PERSIMMON—Kind of fruit, 1648.
PESKY—Confounded, plaguy, 1830.
PETER FUNK—By-bidder at auction, knavish auctioneer, 1854.
PETER OUT—Become exhausted, 1854.
PIAZZA—Veranda, 1787.
PICAYUNE—Small southern coin, obsolete, 1819.
PICK (banjo or guitar)—Play.
PICKANNINNY—Negro baby, B.
PICK-UP (meal)—One consisting of fragments on hand, B.
PIECE—Impromptu and very simple lunch, B.
PIEPLANT—Rhubarb, B.
PIGEONWING—Evolution in dancing, 1807.
PIKE—1. Highway, 1852. 2. Rural vagrant, 1856.
PILE—A lot of money, F.
PILL—Disagreeable person, B.
PILLOWSLIP—Pillowcase, B.
PINCH—Narrowing of ore vein, 1869.
PINCH—To arrest.

PINDLING—Weak and growing weaker, B.

PINE BARRENS—Sandy tracts with some pine trees, 1775.

PINERY—Plantation of pine, 1822.

PINKY—Kind of boat, B.

PINXTER—Whitsunday, B.

PIPE—Follow, waylay, B.

PIPE LAYING—Getting votes of persons not entitled to franchise, 1840. Obsolete in this sense.

PISTAREEN—Petty coin, obsolete, 1764.

PIT—Stone of cherry or peach.

PITPAN—Kind of canoe, B.

PLACE (a man)—Identify, 1855.

PLACER—Locality where gold is found, 1846.

PLAGUY—Troublesome, annoying, B.

PLANK—Section of political platform or statement of principles, 1850.

PLANK DOWN, PLANK UP (money)—Pay, B.

PLANT—Bury, F.

PLAYED OUT—Exhausted, used up, 1862.

PLAY POSSUM—Pretend to be dead, harmless or indifferent, 1824.

PLEASANT SPOKEN—Agreeable in talk, B.

PLUG—Worthless horse.

PLUG HAT—High silk hat, "beaver," B.

PLUGUGLIES—Baltimore rowdies, 1857.

PLUMB CENTRE—The very centre, B.

PLUNK—Dollar.

PLURALITY—Excess of votes over those given for any

other single candidate, when more than two run, 1828.

POCKET—Earth cavity filled with precious metal, B.

POINT—Information for one's guidance, B.

POKE—Device preventing cattle from jumping fences, 1828.

POKER—A card game, B.

POKERISH—Seemingly fit for ghosts, 1827.

POLICY—A gambling game, B.

PONE—Kind of Indian meal bread, 1634.

PONY—Translation, dishonestly used, 1832.

PONY UP—Pay, 1824.

POOL—Combine interests, 1879.

POP (corn)—Roast till kernels pop open, 1854.

POP EYED—Having prominent eyes, B.

POPPYCOCK—Ridiculous nonsense, 1865. (I think older.)

POPULIST—Member of political party so-called, 1892.

PORGY—Kind of fish, B.

PORTAGE—Carrying-place between bodies of water, 1698.

PORTERHOUSE STEAK, 1843.

POSEY-YARD—Flower garden, B.

POST—Inform, 1850.

POSTAL CURRENCY—National bills for sums less than a dollar, bearing when first issued representations of postage stamps, about 1861.

POST CARD—Card for transmission by mail uncovered, privately printed. (Cards issued by the

government, and not requiring the affixing of stamps, are called post*al* cards in the United States.)

POTPIE—Kind of meat pie, 1792.

POUND PARTY—Donation party where everybody brings a pound of something.

POWDER POST—Injury to timber by worm that leaves holes full of powder, B.

POWERFUL—Great, very, 1833.

POWWOW—Uproarious meeting, 1659.

PRAIRIE—Vast treeless plain, 1773.

PRAIRIE DOG—Marmot, 1805.

PRAIRIE HEN—Pinnated grouse, 1805.

PRAIRIE SCHOONER—Large covered wagon, 1858.

PRAWCHEY—Talk, gossip, B.

PRE-EMPT—Secure ownership of public land by settling on it under prescribed conditions, 1857.

PRESENT (written on back of envelope)—Give this to the addressee, whom you know where to find. Or sometimes considered as an adjective, meaning that the person is in the same town or city.

PRESIDIO—Military post, B.

PRESUME LIKELY—Think probably; "I presume likely that's true."

PREX—College president, 1828.

PRICKLY HEAT—Cutaneous eruption, 1736.

PRIMARY—Election of delegates to political convention, 1821.

PRINCE ALBERT (coat)—Frock, C.

PRINTERY—Printing establishment, B.

PROBATE (will)—Obtain sanction by judicial officer, thus giving it legal force, 1792.

PROCESSIONER—Officer in Kentucky, possibly in other states, who determines and marks out bounds of lands, B.

PROHIBITION—Legal prohibition of liquor-selling, B.

PROSPECT, noun—Possible customer.

PROSPECT, verb—Search for precious metal in the soil, 1845.

PUDGICKY—Fussy, B.

PUEBLO—Native village in far West, B.

PULL—Advantage, influence, 1889.

PULLFOOT—Walk fast or run, B.

PULLING-BONE—Breast-bone of fowl, B.

PULQUE—Intoxicating liquor made by Mexicans, 1693.

PUMA—Cougar, B.

PUNCHEON—Split log with face a little smoothed, 1790.

PUNG—One horse sleigh or wagon, 1798.

PUSSY (corruption of *pursy*, *u* sounded as in *pus*)—Corpulent, C.

PUT—Privilege of selling to a certain person before a specified date a certain stock at a certain price, B.

PUT UP (money)—Deposit, 1884 (but I think older).

PUT UP—Incite, suggest, 1824.

## Q

QUACKGRASS—Agropyrum repens, T.
QUADROON—Offspring of white person and mulatto, B.
QUAHAUG—Kind of clam, B.
QUALIFY—Take oath on assuming office, 1857.
QUARTER (of a dollar), B.
QUARTERAGE—"Entertainment or allowance," B.
QUID—Extinct political party, 1805.
QUIDDLING—Unsteady, uncertain, B.
QUIRL—Tangle, curl, twist, 1787.
QUIRT—Riding whip, 1851.
QUITE A FEW—See preceding chapter, "Exotic Americanisms."

## R

RACE—Race with, chase after, 1858.
RACK (for wreck?), in "rack and ruin," B.
RACKABONES—Emaciated man or beast, B.
RAFT—Great quantity or number, 1718.
RAG (time) in music—Syncopated.
RAISE, TO MAKE—To find what one sought, B.
RAKE DOWN—"Taking down, scolding," B.
RAKE-OFF—Share in profits, dishonestly taken, 1909 (but older).
RAMBUNCTIOUS—Quarrelsome, 1854.
RANCH—First a herdsman's hut, then a live-stock establishment, now any kind of farm, 1808.

RANGE—A line of public land subdivisions (special use of an old word), 1851.

RANGY (animal)—Large, loosely built, 1891.

RANK—Take precedence of, 1860.

RANTANKEROUS—Quarrelsome, F.

RAPIDS—Swift descent of river, P.

RARERIPE—Name of a variety of fruit or other crop, or qualifying adjective, various indefinite meanings, 1794.

RATING—Standing in reports of mercantile agency, F.

RATOONS—1. Heart leaves of tobacco, 1840. 2. Sugarcanes of second and third year, B.

RATTLER—Rattlesnake, 1827.

RATTLESNAKE, 1630.

RAWHIDE—Whip, 1821.

REATA—Lariat, lasso, B.

REBOSO—Mexican shawl, B.

RED—Cent, 1848.

RED DOG MONEY—Ill-secured bank bills, obsolete, 1837.

REDEEM (note or bond)—Pay, B.

RED ROOT—Kind of shrub, B.

REGRET—Note declining invitation, B.

REINSURE, B.

REMONETIZE—Make something legal tender again after it has ceased to be such, having been demonetized, 1877.

REMOVABILITY, P.

REPEATER—Man voting more than once, B.

REPORTORIAL (should be *reporterial*), B.

RESERVE, RESERVATION—Land set aside for specific purpose, 1830.

RESPONSIBLE, referring to an undertaking that has succeeded, "the new pastor is chiefly responsible for the growth of the church"—entitled to credit for. Seems to be an Americanism, and one of which we may well be ashamed.

RESTITUTIONISTS—Branch of Universalist church, B.

RETIREMENT—Withdrawing of resolution or the like, B.

RETORTIVE—Containing retort, P. (Apparently a nonce word.)

REVAMP—Patch up, 1859.

REVELATOR—Revealer, 1801.

REVOCAL—Revocation, 1862.

RIDE—Convey, carry, 1687.

RIDING ROCK—Rock at ford, indicating depth of water, B.

RIDINGWAY—Ford, 1780.

RIPPLE—Rocky obstruction in stream, 1796.

RIG—Horse and wagon, 1883 (but, I think, much older).

RIGHT ALONG—Continuously, B.

RIGHT AWAY—Immediately, 1818.

RIGHT HERE—At this instant, B.

RIGHT OFF—Immediately, B.

RIGHT SMART—A lot, large quantity, 1856.

RIGHT STRAIGHT—Immediately, B.

RING—Clique, combination, 1869.

RINGER—Horse dishonestly entered out of his class, C.

RINGTAILED ROARER—Term of indefinite meaning, 1830.

RIP—Rake, libertine, B.

RIP OUT (oath)—Utter vehemently, 1856.

RIPPER—"Tearer, driver," B.

RIPRAP—Rough stonework in water, 1848.

RIPSNORTER—Uproarious, energetic person, B.

RISING (a certain age or amount)—Over, 1775. Sometimes persons say "a thousand and the rise" instead of "rising (*i. e.*, more than) a thousand."

RISING GROUND—Hills.

RISKY—Dangerous, B.

ROACH—Cockroach, B.

ROACH—Trim men's hair or horses' manes, 1781.

ROAD AGENT—Highway robber, 1866.

ROBE—Dressed skin of bison, 1841.

ROBIN—Flannel undershirt, B.

ROCK—A stone, even if small enough to be thrown, 1712.

ROCKS—Money, B.

ROCKAWAY—Light carriage, 1846.

ROCKER—1. Apparatus for separating gold dust from earth, B. 2. Rocking chair, 1855.

ROLLING (country or land)—Gently undulating, 1818.

ROOM—To lodge, 1828.

ROORBACK—Sensational fabrication, 1844.

ROOTER—Noisy partisan, 1898.

ROPE IN—To sweep together, to decoy, B.

RORAM—Kind of cloth, 1796.

ROSE FEVER—Summer catarrh, 1851.

ROUGH—Unfair to, hard on, B.

ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE (fight)—Savage, without rules, 1832.

ROUGHHOUSE—Disturbance, row, 1895.

ROUGHNESS—Coarse fodder, B.

ROUGHSCUFF—Rabble, 1859.

ROUND ONE, TO GET—To flatter, cajole, 1840.

ROUNDER—Dissipated person, F.

ROUSTABOUT—Wharf laborer, deck-hand, 1868.

ROWDY—Ruffian, 1819.

RUBBER, RUBBERNECK—Turn to look at something.

RUBBERS—Caoutchouc overshoes, 1855. (I think older.)

RUGGED—Robust, P.

RULLICHIES—Preparation of meat, 1832.

RUMBUD—Swelling on face, due to liquor, B.

RUMHOLE, RUMMILL—Groggery, 1863.

RUN—1. To make a butt of, B. 2. To cause to run, as church or factory, 1789.

RUN INTO THE GROUND—Overdo, 1826.

RUNABOUT—Small vehicle or boat, C.

RUNNER (of sleigh), 1765.

RUNNER—Solicitor for hotel, railroad or steamboat, 1824.

RUNWAY—Customary track of an animal, 1839.

RUSH—1. Perfect recitation, 1860. 2. Spirit, energy, speed, as to do a thing "with a rush," B.

RUSH THE GROWLER—Bring home beer in pail or pitcher, F.

RUST—Discoloration of fish kept too long, B.

RUSTLE—Grapple with difficulties, 1872.

RYE AND INDIAN (pronounced ryeninjun)—Bread made of rye flour and Indian meal.

## S

SABBADAY—Sunday, 1833.

SADDY—Curtsy, B.

SAGE BRUSH—Artemisia ludoviciana, B.

SAKES, SAKES ALIVE—Ejaculation of surprise, 1846.

SALAMANDER—Name of various animals, 1859.

SALAMANDER (safe)—Fireproof, B.

SALERATUS—Bicarbonate of potash or soda, B.

SALOON—Barroom.

SALT LICK—P.

SAM—Member of Knownothing party, 1855.

SAMBO—Negro, person of mixed blood, 1811.

SAM HILL—The devil, 1839.

SAMP—Coarse hominy, 1643.

SAMPLE ROOM—Barroom, B.
SAND—Pluck, 1883.
SANG—Ginseng, B.
SAPSAGO—Green Swiss cheese, B.
SAPSUCKER—Woodpecker, B.
SARATOGA (trunk), 1869.
SAULT (pronounced soo)—Rapid in river, B.
SAVAGEROUS—Ferocious, 1832.
SAVANNA—Open plain formerly under water, 1705.
SAVE—To kill, 1833.
SAWBUCK, SAWHORSE—Frame holding log for sawing.
SAWYER—Tree uprooted by river and caught in stream, 1801.
SAY—Unmeaning and silly prefix to sentence, B.
SCAB—Scurrilous term for workman not member of trade union, 1798.
SCALAWAG—Scapegrace, 1848.
SCALP—To unscalp (like to *dust*, meaning to *undust*).
SCALPER—Speculator in tickets or stocks, B.
SCARE UP—Find, B.
SCARY—Timorous or causing fear, B.
SCAT—Be off, get out.
SCHOONER—Large beer glass, B.
SCOOP—Kind of bonnet, 1800.
SCOOP—Important news secured exclusively by a single journal, 1876.
SCORCH—To drive bicycle very fast.
SCRAP—Quarrel, T.

SCRAPPLE—A food, of various compositions, B.

SCRATCH—Lucky stroke at billiards, B.

SCRATCH GRAVEL—Be off, get out, B.

SCRUB (oak)—Dwarfish, B.

SCRUMPTIOUS—Nice, fine, excellent, B.

SCUFF—Light shoe or slipper.

SCULP, SCULPIN, SCUP—Kind of fish.

SCUP—Swing, 1849.

SCUT—Refuse beer.

SCUTUM, AQUASCUTUM—Waterproof cloak, 1876.

SEAL (wife), among Mormons—Marry for eternity but not for this life, B.

SEASON—Time of wet weather, B.

SECOND—Affix to a person's name, signifying that he is younger than another person of same name, but is not his son, thus distinguishing John Doe, 2d, from John Doe, Jr., the latter being the son of the original John Doe, the former perhaps a nephew, perhaps not nearly related.

SECTION—Part of the country, B.

SECTIONAL—Reverse of national, 1836.

SELECTMAN—Magistrate, 1685.

SENSE, verb—Comprehend, 1849.

SERAPE—Mexican blanket, 1887.

SETTLEMENT—Pastor's homestead, B.

SEVEN UP—Card game, 1856.

SHACK—Rough cabin.

SHACKLY—Rickety, B.

SHADBELLY (coat)—Variety of cutaway, 1842.





SHADE (a price)—Reduce slightly, B.
SHADY, KEEP—Lie perdu, B.
SHAGBARK—Kind of hickory, 1792.
SHAKEDOWN—Boisterous dance, B.
SHAKES—Rough shingles, 1845.
SHANGHAI—Tall dandy, B.
SHANGHAI (sailor)—Get drunk, and send to sea without his knowledge.
SHANTY—Rude hut, 1820.
SHARPEY—Kind of boat, B.
SHAY—Mistake for chaise, supposed to be plural, 1717.
SHEBANG—House, shop, establishment, 1863.
SHECOONERY—Chicanery, 1845.
SHEEPSHEAD—Kind of fish, B.
SHEEPSKIN—Diploma, 1804.
SHELL—Light row-boat, B.
SHENANIGAN—Foolery, nonsense, tricks, B.
SHILLAGALEE—Low fellow, scalawag, B.
SHILLING—Eighth part of a dollar, B.
SHIN, SHIN ROUND—To run here and there, B.
SHINE, in phrase to take a shine—A fancy or liking, B.
SHINE, to have—To have one's shoes blacked, B.
SHINES—Capers, tricks, 1830.
SHINGLE—Sign board, 1848.
SHINGLE—To cut hair close, B.
SHINGLE-WEAVER—Maker of shingles, B.
SHINPLASTER—Paper money, 1824.

SHOOTER—Pistol. Six shooter, revolver with six barrels.

SHOOTING IRON—Gun or pistol, 1833.

SHORT, to sell—To sell something that one has not yet bought, B.

SHORTAGE—Deficiency, 1868.

SHOULD improperly substituted for the infinitive, as "I want you should go," 1833.

SHOVE, said of ice—To move and pile up, B.

SHUT PAN—Close the mouth, 1799.

SHY or SHY OF—Lacking, short, deficient in; "We are shy two men this morning"—We miss two men that were expected.

SHYSTER—Rascally lawyer or other cheat, 1856.

SIDE LINES—Secondary roads, B.

SIDESTEP—Evade or avoid, 1901.

SIDEWHEELER—Pacing horse.

SIDING—Boards for side of house, B.

SIERRA—Mountain range, B.

SIGN—Trace of recent presence of men or animals, 1855.

SIGN (a person)—Get signature to contract; engage; hire, 1889.

SIGN OFF—Relinquish a claim or a right, B.

SINK or SINK-HOLE—Depression where water disappears, 1816.

SIZE UP—Form judgment of, 1890.

SKATE—Worn out horse, C.

SKEEZICKS—Contemptible fellow, 1850.

SKIN—Cheat, 1837.

SKULLDUGGERY—Cunning, trickery, B.

SKUNK—To defeat completely, 1848.

SKYUGLE—Verb of so many meanings that it means nothing except as the context may explain it, 1864 or a little earlier.

SLABSIDED—Having straight sides, uncouth, 1817.

SLAPJACK—Pancake, B.

SLASHES—Marshes, 1819.

SLATE—List of nominees, 1877.

SLAVER—Man or vessel engaged in the slave trade, B.

SLAZY or SLEAZY—Worn thin, 1820.

SLEEP—Furnish sleeping accommodations, B.

SLEEPING CAR, B.

SLEIGH—Vehicle on runners, for use on snow, P.

SLEIGHING—State of snowy road that permits use of sleighs, B.

SLEUTH—Detective.

SLEW or SLUE—Slough, B.

SLIMSY—Flimsy, frail, B.

SLING—Alcoholic drink, 1788.

SLIP—Pew, B.

SLIP—Pay or give (money).

SLIP-NOOSE—Slip-knot.

SLOPE—Run away, elope, escape, B.

SLUMP—Dish of apples and bread, B.

SLUNGSHOT—Weapon consisting of two metal balls at ends of rope, 1842.

SMART CHANCE—Good opportunity, large quantity, B.

SMILE—Drink, 1850.

SNAKE (fence)—Zigzag, B.

SNAKE HEAD—Piece of flat rail thrown up by a car wheel, B.

SNAKE IN, SNAKE OUT—Drag, 1848.

SNAP (generally in phrase "cold snap")—Period of weather, B.

SNAP—Quick, off-hand, without fair consideration, 1841.

SNAP, SOFT—Sinecure, 1845.

SNEAK THIEF, F.

SNIFTER—Drink, 1848.

SNOOP—To pilfer, 1834.

SNOOZER—Hotel thief, B.

SNORE—String for spinning top, B.

SNORTER—Riotous fellow, B.

SNUB UP—To attach boat to post, 1845.

SNUG—Purloin, 1795.

SOAK—To pawn articles; to punish a man.

SOAKER—Drunkard, B.

SOAP LOCK—Lock of hair brushed smooth, 1838.

SOCDOLAGER—Coup de grace, 1837.

SOCIAL or SOCIABLE—Gathering of people for social purposes, B.

SOCIABLE—Kind of sofa, B.

SODA—Soda water, B.

SODDY—Sod hut, 1913.

SOFT (money)—Paper, B.
SOFT SAWDER—Flattery, B.
SOFT SNAP or SOFT THING—Piece of luck, 1845.
SOLDIER—To shirk.
SOLID COLOR—All of the same color.
SOTS—Yeast, B.
SOU MARQUEE—Worthless coin, B.
SOUR on a thing—Have enough of it, 1862.
SPANG—Full, completely, 1843.
SPARK—To court, B.
SPAT—Quarrel, 1804.
SPEAKEASY—Grogshop, T.
SPEEDWAY—Road where fast driving is allowed, C.
SPELLBINDER—Political speaker, 1888.
SPELLING BEE—Public contest in spelling, B.
SPIDER—Three-legged frying pan, B.
SPIKE TEAM—Three animals harnessed together, one leading the pair, 1845.
SPIT-BALL—Ball made of chewed paper, B.
SPIT-CURL—Lock of hair curled on the temple, 1858.
SPITTOON—Cuspidore, 1840. (But see p. 197.)
SPLIT—Go fast, B.
SPLIT TICKET—One containing the names of candidates from two or more parties, as distinguished from a "straight ticket," which names candidates all of the same party.
SPONDOOLICS—Money, 1857.
SPOOPS—Silly fellow, B.
SPORTS—Gamblers, B.

SPOSH—Mixture of snow and water, B.

SPOTTER—Detective, B.

SPREAD ONE'S SELF—Exert one's self ostentatiously, B.

SPRINGER—Cow about to calve, C.

SPRUNG—Intoxicated, 1856.

SQUARE—Distance between streets, 1784.

SQUARE ROOM—Best apartment, B.

SQUEEZER—Mark on corner of playing card, to indicate value, F.

SQUIRT—Presumptuous fellow, 1872.

SQUUSH—Crush, 1846.

STAGING—Scaffolding, P.

STAKE OUT—Picket an animal, B.

STALWART—Wing of Republican party, 1880.

STAMPEDE—Wild rush, 1846.

STAMPING GROUND—Place of resort, 1839.

STAMPS—Money, 1861.

STAND OFF (transitive)—Hold at a distance, C.

STAND PAT—Term in game of poker, T.

STANDEE—Standing place, B.

STATED SUPPLY—Acting pastor, B.

STAVE—Press forward, 1825.

STAVER—Active person, 1869.

STAVING—Great, strong, B.

STEEP—Great; extravagant, 1856.

STEMWINDER—Keyless watch, B.

STICK—Impose upon, B.

STIFF—Corpse, 1871.

STIFF (said of a drink)—Strong.
STILL HUNTING—Stalking game silently, B.
STINGAREE—A fish, Cephaloptera vampyrus, 1632.
STOCK WATERING—Issuing stock dishonestly, B.
STOGIE—Coarse boot; cheap cigar, 1847.
STOOL, STOOL PIGEON—Decoy, B.
STOREKEEPER—Shopkeeper, 1817.
STOVEPIPE HAT—Tall silk hat, 1855.
STRADDLE—Stockbroker's term, B.
STRADDLEBUG—A beetle, 1853.
STRAIGHT—Pure, complete, unaltered, 1854.
STRAM—To flourish the legs, C.
STRAPPED—Out of funds, 1857.
STRAW, as in straw bail, straw bid—Worthless, B.
STREAK IT—Run, 1834.
STREAKED, STREAKY—Alarmed, 1833.
STREET YARN—Idle gossip, 1855.
STRIKE—1. Term in game of ninepins. 2. Discovery or achievement.
STRIPE—Pattern, sort, kind, 1853.
SPRIPPER—Cow nearly dry, F.
STROWD—Breech cloth, 1752.
STUB TOE, B.
STUCK ON—Fond of, recent slang.
STUD—Stallion, 1833.
STUMP—To challenge, puzzle, confound, 1800.
STUMPAGE, 1846.
STUMPER—1. Puzzler, 1807. 2. Stump orator, 1863.

STUMP SPEAKER, 1835.

SUABILITY—Liability to be sued, 1798.

SUCKER—1. Dupe, 1857. 2. Native of Illinois, 1833.

SUCK IN—Cheat, delude, B.

SUIT OF HAIR, 1854.

SUIT CASE—Special kind of travelling bag, originally called "dress suit case," recent. A slovenly contraction, though not as bad as calling the same thing a "case."

SUMP—Cesspool, 1904.

SUNDAY, sometimes misspelled "sundae"—Ice cream with syrup over it. Name said to have been first used, about 1897, at Red Cross Pharmacy, State Street, Ithaca, N. Y., directly opposite to barroom of Ithaca Hotel, which was closed on Sunday, suggesting to the pharmacy people to offer a distinctively Sunday drink.

SUN UP—Sunrise, 1843.

SUSTAIN a fatal wound. Recent newspaper English.

SWAG—Depression in the earth, F.

SWAMPING—Huge, B.

SWAN—Swear, B.

SWANKEY—A beverage, 1873.

SWEAR IN—Administer oath to newly chosen official, B.

SWEAR OFF—Abjure a habit, B.

SWEENY—Atrophy of muscles, 1855.

SWITCHEL—A beverage, 1801.

## T

TAB, TO KEEP—To tally, 1888.
TABLESPREAD—Table cloth, C.
TACKY—Small or poor horse, 1835.
TADS—People, generally children, B.
TAILOR—Kind of fish, B.
TAKE (printer's)—Piece of copy to be set, C.
TAKE (said of body of water)—Freeze.
TAKE BACK TRACK—Recede, back down, B.
TAKE RAG OFF—Surpass, B.
TAKE SHINE OFF—Excel completely, B.
TAKE THE STUMP—Start electioneering by oratory, B.
TAKE UP (animals)—Prepare them for a journey, B.
TAKE UP (at an inn)—Stop, B.
TAKE WATER—Disappear; give up an argument, 1854.
TALKING IRON—Gun or pistol, B.
TALK TURKEY—Say pleasant things, B.
TALLOW DIP—Candle not moulded, B.
TAMARACK—Kind of tree, B.
TANGLEFOOT—Intoxicating liquor, 1871. (I think earlier.)
TANGLELEG—Kind of shrub, B.
TAPS—Military curfew, F.
TARHEEL—North Carolinian, 1864.
TATTLER—Kind of bird, B.
TAUNTON TURKEYS—Herring, B.

TAX—Charge, B.

TEAFIGHT—Tea party, B.

TEAR—Spree, C.

TEAR—Move fast, pull along, B.

TEAR ROUND—Make a fuss, B.

TEETER—Bob up and down, B.

TEETHACHE—Toothache; said when more than one tooth gives trouble; same error as exemplified in the British "parcels post," so called because more than one parcel is carried.

TELEGRAM—Telegraphic dispatch, 1852.

TELESCOPE (said of railroad cars)—To be jammed into each other, B.

TELL ON—Tell of, B.

TENDER (something complimentary, like a reception)—Give.

TENDERFOOT—Recent arrival from civilization in the wilds of the West, 1861.

TENDERLOIN—1. Part of a steak, 1832. 2. Part of a town, T.

TENEMENT HOUSE—Building of poor class occupied by many tenants, B.

TEN STRIKE—Thorough work, 1844.

TERAWCHY—"Creepmouse," child's word, B.

TERRAPIN—Kind of turtle, 1705.

TEXAS—Highest deck of western steamboat, 1875.

THANK-YE-MA'AMS—Abrupt depressions in road, B.

THIRTY (in printer's copy)—The end, T.

THOROUGHFARE—Low gap between mountains, B.

THOROUGHWORT—Boneset, B.
THUNDERHEADS—Kind of clouds, C.
TICKER—Telegraph instrument recording stock quotations, F.
TICKET—List of candidates, 1789.
TICKLER—1. Pocket flask, B. 2. Book of engagements, 1839.
TIGER—Yell after cheers, 1822.
TIGER (to fight or "buck")—To engage in regular gambling, B.
TIGHT—Stingy, 1855.
TIGHTWAD—Stingy person.
TILT—Kind of bird, B.
TILTER—Seesaw, B.
TIME AND AGAIN—Repeatedly, 1841.
TIME, TO MAKE—Move rapidly.
TIME, ON—Punctual.
TIMOTHY—Herd's grass, B.
TIPCART—Cart that will dump its load, 1879.
TIP OFF—Inform secretly in advance.
TOAD STICKER—Knife, sword, B.
TOBOGGAN—Kind of sleigh, 1865.
TOM—Wooden trough used in gold-mining, B.
TONGS—Trousers, B.
TOP NOTCH—Highest point, 1848.
TOTE—Carry, 1677.
TOTTLISH—Shaky, B.
TOUCH-OFF—Incendiary fire.
TOUGH—Rowdy, C.

TOUGH IT OUT—Bear it heroically, 1830.
TRADE—Exchange, 1806.
TRAILER—Street car drawn by another, 1890.
TRANSPIRE erroneously used for *occur*, 1802.
TRAP FISHING, B.
TREE—To drive into a tree, 1818.
TREENAIL—Large wooden peg, 1800.
TRICK—A turn at working.
TROT—Translation, 1891. (I think much older.)
TRUCK—Vegetables for market, 1784.
TRUCK—Hook and ladder apparatus for fire fighting.
TRUST—Large corporation.
TUCKERED OUT—Exhausted, 1853.
TUCK ON—To add something unreasonably, B.
TUMBLE—Hay cock, B.
TUMBLEBUG—Dung beetle, 1806.
TURNPIKE—Turnpike road, P.
TUXEDO COAT—Dinner jacket.
TYPE—Use a typewriter.
TYPO—Compositor, 1816.

## U

ULTRAISM—Extreme opinions, 1850.
UNCLE—Elderly colored man; one's self, as in phrase, "You can't fool your uncle," 1835.
UNDER THE WEATHER—Ill, 1850.
UNDERCOAT—Petticoat, B.
UNDERHEW—To cut timber dishonestly, F.

UNDERPINNERS—Legs, B.
UNFELLOWSHIPPED—Not recognized, 1861.
UNSEATED (land)—Unoccupied, 1799.
UP TO—Incumbent on, late 19th century.
UP TO SNUFF—Well informed, B.
UPPER CRUST, UPPER TEN—Aristocracy, B.
UPRIGHT—Leg, B.
USABLE—That can be used, F.
USED UP—Exhausted, 1833.
UXORICIDE—Murder or murderer of wife, F.

## V

VALEDICTORY, VALEDICTORIAN at college commencement, B.
VAMOSE—Decamp, 1848.
VARIATE—Vary, P.
VARIOUS, noun—"I talked with various of them," B.
VEGETARIAN—Abjurer of animal food, B.
VIGILANCE COMMITTEE—Voluntary association to preserve order, B.
VIM—Energy, 1850.
VIOLATIVE—In violation, 1861.
VISIT WITH—Chat with.
VUM—Vow, 1785.

## W

WAFFLE—Kind of cake, 1750.
WAGGED OUT—Tired, B.

WAIST—Bodice, C.

WALKING PAPERS, WALKING TICKET—Notice to quit, 1843.

WALK INTO—To attack, B.

WALK OVER—Easy Victory, B.

WALL PAPER—Paper hangings, B.

WALLOW—Depression in earth, looking like animals' work, C.

WAMBLECROPPED, WOMBLECROPPED—Humiliated, 1798.

WASH-OUT—Effect of a flood, F.

WATERGAP—Passage of stream between hills, C.

WATERSHED—High land from which streams flow both ways, B.

WATERWITCH—Person who finds underground or hidden streams by aid of a bent wand, B.

WAUMUS—Jacket, 1805.

WAX—To defeat, 1876.

WAYBILL—Record of lading, 1821.

WAY PASSENGER, STATION or TRAIN, 1799.

WEARABLES—Clothes, B.

WED for WEDDED—Recent newspaper revival of obsolete form.

WELL COME UP WITH—Served just right, paid in his own coin.

WESAND—Throat, F.

WET—Permitting or favoring the sale of intoxicants, late 19th century.

WHALER—Big, strapping fellow, B.

WHALING—Beating, 1847.
WHANG—Sinew of deer, 1846.
WHAPPERJAW—Protruding jaw, B.
WHIFFET—Insignificant creature, F.
WHIFFLETREE—Whippletree, B.
WHIP—Overcome, defeat, 1815.
WHIPPERSNAPPER—Pretentious person.
WHIPPOORWILL—Kind of bird, 1781.
WHIPSTOCK—Whip socket, C.
WHISKEY SKIN—Kind of drink, B.
WHITEWASH (person or action)—Apply a pretext to conceal the evil.
WHOLE SOULED—Noble minded, 1834.
WIDE OPEN—Said of town where liquor is freely sold, late 19th century.
WILDCAT (investments)—Highly speculative, 19th century.
WINDFALL—Track of tornado in forest; fruit blown off by wind; unexpected good luck, 1840.
WINERY—Place where wine is made, F.
WIRE—Electric telegraph.
WIRE EDGE (of a cutting tool), B.
WIRE PULLERS—Political plotters, 1826.
WISHBONE—Breast bone of fowl, B.
WOLVERINES—People of Michigan, 1835.
WOODCHUCK—Ground hog, Arctomyx monax, 1768.
WOODRICK—Pile of wood, B.
WORK-A-DAY CLOTHING.
WORM FENCE—Fence built zigzag, 1817.

WORRIMENT—Anxiety, B.
WRAPPER—Loose dress, undershirt, B.
WRATHY—Angry, 1834.

## Y

YANKEE NOTIONS—Small wares, 1819.
YARD—Garden near house, C.
YEARLING—One year old, C.
YEGG, YEGGMAN—Thief, 1903.
YELLOW—Disreputable, 19th century.
YORK SHILLING—Twelve and a half cents.

## Z

ZEE—Name of the last letter of the alphabet, 1797.
ZIT—Sound of projectile striking water, F.

# CHAPTER FIVE

## MISUNDERSTOOD AND IMAGINARY AMERICANISMS

"Many British words are inadmissible in the United States, where the inhabitants have so far progressed with their self-inflicted task of creating an American language that much of their conversation is, if they choose, incomprehensible to English people."—*London Court Journal, Aug.* 20, 1892.

If the English court gets from British authorities its ideas of the language that we are supposed to be creating in this country, it is no wonder that an editor who is presumably to be regarded as in some sense the mouthpiece of that distinguished body of ladies and gentlemen holds the views above expressed; for many of the terms that are attributed to us in Great Britain are incomprehensible in this country as well as abroad, and some real Americanisms are so misunderstood, and consequently so misused, when our transatlantic cousins honor them with their quasi-approval by adopting them, that they come to need interpretation to us as much as to any Englishman.

Taking first a case of straight misunderstanding, there is a well-nigh universal British practice of applying our word *Yankee* to every American, the Missis-

sippian as well as the Vermonter; I have even seen the Union Pacific stock mentioned among "Yankee rails" in London financial papers, in disregard (or ignorance) of the fact that not one of the rails of that line is within a thousand miles of Yankee-land. To call a Scotch Highlander a cockney would be a very trifling error in comparison, and what would the editor of the Court Journal think of an American who knew no better than to do that?

Sometimes one of our expressions is adopted in England in an abbreviated form that destroys its sense; and it must be admitted that in at least one case the abbreviated form is often imitated from British papers by careless speakers and writers in this country, making the term perhaps not exactly unintelligible but certainly in need of explanation. I refer to the adjective *record-breaking*, which is perfectly regular in form, self-explanatory, and convenient. Every important achievement, be it in raising a crop, in making time on a railroad, in reaching a great height with an aeroplane, is on record somewhere; and when something better is done in the same line, the record may well be said to have been broken. But the English first, and careless Americans later, have taken to calling the latter accomplishment a "record" one, as a "record" (instead of a *record-breaking*) crop of wheat, or a "record" (instead of a *record-breaking*) run of a train—a change that makes the adjective meaningless and silly.

Sometimes again our British cousins fancy well enough to adopt it an American expression that does not explain itself, and put it into use without taking the trouble to ascertain what it means. An instance is our *right away,* which of course means *immediately* and has never meant anything else in the country of its invention. What the English mean by the term I have never been able to ascertain, though I have asked English friends more than once, when I have happened to hear them use it in a sense that was perfectly unintelligible to me. Sometimes it seems to indicate a considerable distance, as "right away down in the southwest of England," which expression describes, I am told, a position near Land's End, or at least somewhere in Cornwall; and that may be Mr. H. G. Wells' idea in writing ("Wife of Sir Isaac Harman," chap. 5), "It wasn't till we'd gone right away to Haggerston that they altered things." Sometimes it seems to have no meaning at all; "it's a way of speaking, you know," an Englishman said to me once, when I asked him to explain; and Mr. Arnold Bennett pronounces it "one of those quite meaningless phrases which adorn the languages of all nations." If the Court Journal writer judges of the language we Americans are creating by the undoubted Americanism *right away* as he hears it in England, he may well set it down as an unintelligible jargon.

Sometimes again an American term is partly understood in Great Britain, but with some misappre-

hension that changes the sense. An instance is *caucus,* which means an informal and preliminary meeting, but which is "grotesquely misapplied in Great Britain"—so says the greatest British authority, Murray, "to an organization or system." If an Englishman reads in an American paper of the holding of a caucus, understanding the word in the sense that it seems his countrymen have chosen to give it, one may well see that he will find the phrase unintelligible.

Another word that seems to have suffered a sort of sea change in Great Britain, though not enough to spoil it, is *fall,* meaning *autumn,* which word, by the way, is only by present practice especially American, it having been formerly in use on the other side of the ocean. However, it is not in general use there now, and our understanding of the term does not seem to be very accurately grasped; at least I read some time ago in the London Agricultural Gazette a letter from Prof. J. P. Sheldon, headed "The Fall," and beginning with the statement that "by the terse and indicative pair of words that are placed at the head of this article, our American cousins denote the last three months of the year, or possibly some of them leave out the last month of the twelve." What American ever included December as a "fall" month—or failed to include September?

Sometimes Englishmen charge us with inventing uncouth expressions that it is safe to say no American ever heard, like the impossible verb to *excur,* which

the Pall Mall Gazette mentions as "another Americanism." "We are apt in England," says Mr. William Archer (Pall Mall Magazine, 19.188) "to class as an Americanism every unfamiliar locution which we do not happen to like."

Sometimes, and oddest of all, an English writer attributes to us purely British slang, never heard in this country, perhaps not even understood here. A recent London letter to a New York daily has this sentence: "Such critics for the most part accuse 'Kentish Suburb' and those who agree with him, not only of bad business management but also of swank, which is the British equivalent for what you in America call 'putting on side.'" We in Amercia! Who ever heard an American speak of "putting on side"? It is straight, pure Cockney, Cockney "of the first water," as Dickens would say. We might as well be accused of calling a hat "han 'at."

And when an English writer undertakes to discuss Americanisms at large, oh, dear, dear, the work he makes of it! Some instances of the blunders that are sure to result are given in the note on Farmer's compilation, in the second chapter of this book. But Farmer is accuracy itself, compared with the wild guesses that pass for definitions of expressions peculiar to this country in the book entitled: "Passing English of the Victorian Era, a Dictionary of Heterodox English, Slang and Phrase," by J. Redding Ware, Routledge & Sons, London, not dated, but issued, I

think, in 1913. It is an important work, compiled with much (even though in some cases unavailing) labor; and will be valued for reference in time to come. For this reason, it seems worth while to correct here some fifty of the many errors into which the author has fallen, not that they would mislead an American, but for the benefit of any Englishman who may possibly honor this book with his attention.

Mr. Ware's method of procedure with American terms, or what he supposes to be such, has been to clip out every newspaper article he has noticed that contains one of them, guess at the meaning of it, and give his guess as the definition; and he is, almost beyond belief, unfortunate in his conjectures. Of course not all his blunders are explained in this way, but many of them are. I take examples in alphabetical order, just as they come in the book.

"ALBANY BEEF, Unattractive Viands." Here the clipping itself gave the correct definition, an article by G. A. Sala containing reference to "Hudson River sturgeon, otherwise known as Albany beef." There you have it; Albany beef is simply the flesh of the sturgeon, and so far from its being "unattractive," a recent advertisement of a dealer mentions it as "the monarch of all fish to eat," and the appended price list of his large stock gives a higher figure per pound for sturgeon than for any other fish with the single exception of brook trout.

"AMEN CORNER, A church." This is a pure guess.

The Amen Corner was a seat in the lobby of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, often occupied by gentlemen who were far from being regular church attendants.

"ARCTICS, Winter clothing." The clipping itself shows that this definition is absurdly wrong, for it reads: "I hate a hotel where you have to get up at 4.15, dress in a cold room, and walk down to the station because the bus doesn't go to that train, and about half way down you discover that you left your arctics in the office." Is one likely to leave behind, by oversight, under the circumstances mentioned, his "winter clothing"? Arctics are a special form of overshoes.

"AX TO GRIND, A personal end to serve, originally a favor to ask, from men in backwoods pretending to want to grind their axes when in reality they required a drink." Here the definition is not far from right, but the explanation is "way off." The expression comes from an old story, attributed I believe to Benjamin Franklin, of a stranger who cajoled a farmer's boy into turning a grindstone for him very laboriously, and when he had sharpened his ax, instead of rewarding the boy, abused him for idling instead of going to school, where he ought to have been an hour earlier.

"AX GRINDERS, Men who grumble, especially politically." Another wild guess; nothing to suggest it in the clipping quoted.

"BACK DOWN, To yield; that is to say, 'make a back,' as boys at leap-frog, to enable the other players

to get over." Here is a double error, the expression, though correctly defined, being wrongly explained and wrongly marked "American," as is shown by entry in Murray (which includes reference to the figurative use), "Back down, descend as one does a ladder"—with the earliest known appearance of the term in print, which was in a London journal of Oct. 11, 1880.

"BASEBALL, Small, insignificant, suggested by the small size of the ball in question." The clipping speaks of a baseball moustache.

"BEADLES, People of Virginia, probably from their high, old-fashioned behavior, which the Northerner associates with that expiring church functionary." What "Northerner," meaning an American Northerner, ever heard of a beadle, except as he may read of him in British books? What American ever heard the Virginians called beadles?

"BEEF-HEADS OR COWBOYS, People of Texas and the West of U. S. A., the general employment of the inhabitants being the harrying of cattle." Beef-head is a new word to me, though I cannot say it does not exist. But what about "harrying"? To harry can only mean, as applied to cattle, either to torment or to steal; are these the "general employment of the inhabitants" of "the West of U. S. A."?

"BLANK PLEASE, A negative euphemism for the unending 'damned,' with a polite request added." The clipping says, "We may put what we blank please

in the editorial columns," and Mr. Ware thinks the *please* is a part of the euphemism.

"BLUE-GRASS, People of Kentucky." The clipping speaks of a blue-grass woman.

"BLUE-NOSES, Canadians." The clipping itself shows the term restricted to Nova Scotians, though I think it sometimes includes the people of New Brunswick as well. It certainly never means Canadians in general.

"BLUE PIG, Whiskey." The clipping speaks of "remarkable animals discovered in Maine, striped and blue pigs." What a striped pig may be, I do not know; but a blue pig is a place where whiskey is surreptitiously sold, and by no means the whiskey itself.

"BOBOLINK, Talkative person." Such people may sometimes be called bobolinks, perhaps, just as one might call them jackdaws or parrots; but the word certainly has no such meaning.

"BROOMSTICK (Canadian), A gun or rifle; no word could more perfectly outline the peaceful character of the Canadian as distinct from his American brother, when it is borne in mind that the latter calls his gun, shooting iron. The domesticity of broomstick yields history in itself." If it were true that the Canadian, unlike the American, gives his gun a strictly domestic name, the inference to my mind would be that the former is much more in the habit of using the weapon than is the latter—considers it a sort of necessary domestic implement, as it were.

"BUNCOMBE, Politically, or possibly any publicly, spoken flattery, from a celebrated orator of honied (sic—should be *honeyed*) phrases named Buncombe." Wrong from beginning to end, and the clipping shows it, being the old story of "the member from the County of Buncombe" who was indifferent to the gradual disappearance of his audience, because he was making a speech intended for home circulation. What his name was, does not appear, but anybody could see that it is most unlikely to have been Buncombe; and there is nothing whatever to indicate that he was getting off "honied" phrases.

"BUNKO, Doubtful, shifty." "He was taken for a bunko man," says the clipping. A bunko man is by no means a "doubtful" person, but a professional cheat.

"C. S., Abbreviation of Confederate Soldiers." The "*S*" stands, not for *soldiers* but for *States*.

"CHUMP, A youth who is cheated of his money, especially by the gentler sex." The clipping characterizes as a chump a fellow who is "buying ice-cream for his girl with money he ought to save to buy lunch." Anybody ought to see that he is intended to be described as simply a goose. He would have been just as much a chump if he had wasted his money in treating a crowd of boys or in buying superfluous luxuries for himself; and there is no implication that anybody cheated him.

"CLAIM, To recognize in travelling; in a railway

carriage one may frequently hear the inquiry, 'Surely I claim you—we met at Suez?' " I do not believe anybody ever heard a phrase like that from the lips of an American, though of course we speak (and correctly) of claiming a person's acquaintance.

"COMSTOCKISM, Opposition to the nude in art; Comstock was quite a public man in America." The definition is hardly correct; and the comment is, well, funny.

"CONFIDENCE QUEEN, A female detective, outcome of American state of society." A confidence queen is by no means a detective, but a kind of person that likes to have as little as possible to do with detectives; and there is nothing whatever, even by indirect inference, in the subjoined clipping to suggest the misconception.

"CRACKER, Native; origin unknown." The clipping speaks of a "South Carolina cracker," giving some color to Mr. Ware's supposition that cracker means *native* in general, and not, as is the fact, a southern poor white.

"CREOLES, People of Louisiana, probably a satire by the North upon illegitimate mingling of slave-owners' and slaves' blood." Wrong from beginning to end; see the word in the last preceding chapter of this book. What "satire" can possibly be imagined in the case I am unable to conjecture.

"CUT-THROAT, Destructive, reckless, applied to card-playing." The clipping itself should suggest

the correct interpretation of the word, that it denotes a special form of the game mentioned, and by no means implies any bloodthirstiness in the players, especially as they are described as having "a social game."

"DAMPEN—To damn." The clipping says of a play that "the heroine, dying so soon, rather dampens the piece." The verb, in the sense "to dull, deaden, depress, deject," is as old in British literature as the beginning of the 16th century. Why Mr. Ware supposed that it had any other meaning in the paper that he clipped, or that there was anything American about its use there, does not appear.

"DEAD GIVE-AWAY, A swindle, deception." Here is another case where Mr. Ware's own clipping should have given him the proper definition, if he had considered it with any care, for it shows plainly enough that what the writer had in mind was the very reverse of deception, being in fact an undesired revelation of a secret, the only sense in which the phrase is ever used in this country.

"DIME MUSEUM, A common show, a poor piece; from New York, which has a passion for monstrosity displays called Dime Museums, the dime being the eighth of a dollar." One would think that the very words he so misconstrues would themselves have enabled Mr. Ware to get this somewhere nearer right. "Museum" should have shown him that reference is to an establishment and not to a "show" or a "piece";

and really, now, does "dime" suggest to the lexicographer the fraction one eighth?

"DIRT ROAD, The highway, as distinct from the railroad, which is gravelled; probably railway official satire." "Satire" again; what looks like satire in the expression? A dirt road is an earth road as distinguished from one that is paved; and no more in this country than in Europe is it universally true that railroads are gravelled.

"DOUGHNUT, A baker, especially the German variety; probably from the too frequent flabby, doughy face of the sickly operative." A doughnut is a kind of cake, not of German origin and not favored by Germans; and the explanation—well, doesn't it really seem that this author tries to go as far wrong as he possibly can?

"EIGHTEEN CARAT LIE, A good sound lie, eighteen carat gold being good, thorough metal." What "thorough" metal may be, the present writer does not know, never having heard the adjective used in that connection. It certainly cannot mean pure, considering that pure gold is nearly half as rich again as that described as eighteen carat.

"FREAK, Actors who lose professional caste by aiding in eccentric shows." A freak is a very queer person, a monstrosity, like a bearded woman.

"GET THE G. B., Dismissed, G. B. being 'go by.'" "G. B." means "grand bounce."

"HUSTLER, Name invented for flaming advertise-

ments." No clipping. Where on earth did Mr. Ware get his definition? A hustler is an active, pushing person.

"JAY TOWN, VALUELESS." The clipping itself defines the term correctly, for it says: "A jay town is a country town." Are the words "country" and "valueless" synonymous in Mr. Ware's vocabulary?

"NICKEL PLATE, An equivalent to our German silver, a swindle, a social fraud." Nickel plate means in the United States exactly what it means in all the rest of the English-speaking world; and the application made of the term in the clipping, to the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad, implies nothing like swindle or fraud, implies nothing at all, in fact, for it is attributed to the calling of the road by initials, N. Y. C. L. suggesting nickel, and so nickel plate.

"ON HIS EAR, In disgrace; from American mothers' grabbing their boys' ears while battling in the streets with other boys." Whether American mothers are especially addicted to the reprehensible practice described, might perhaps be questioned; but "on his ear" never meant, in this country, anything but excited and irritated. The next entry is even wilder. It is this:

"ON HIS FEET, Ruined." No clipping; and what possessed the man to suppose that we Americans reverse the plain ordinary meaning of the phrase that describes an erect posture, and has been used for cen-

turies metaphorically to describe the position of a business man who no longer needs support, being able to care for himself, passes the present writer's ability to conjecture. The next entry among "ons" is simply cryptic. It runs thus:

"ON ICE, Dead; from placing body on ice to aid in faking it." What sort of process is faking a body?

"PISTOL POCKETS, Warnings not to fool." No clipping. Who ever heard anybody use the term in any such sense, or in any sense but that conveyed by the ordinary meaning of the words, pockets intended to hold pistols?

"PLUG, To get into difficulties." No clipping. No American ever used the verb in the sense given. "To plug along" is to make headway *against* difficulties.

"PRETTY STEEP, Threatening." The term is commonly applied to a charge for a service, and means simply exorbitant.

"PUSLEY, Most mysterious—who was Pusley?" The clipping includes the expression "as mean as pusley," the last word being a corruption of the name of a troublesome weed, purslane.

"RAGGED EDGE, Deserted." This extraordinary definition is one of Mr. Ware's guesses, and a not unnatural one this time, though wildly incorrect. The clipping reads: "Father, daughter and child sailed yesterday for Paris, leaving poor Tom on the ragged

edge." Poor Tom may have been deserted; but what the writer meant to say of him was that he was left in a condition of suspense and distress.

"REAL HEALTHY, Well brained." No clipping, and surely no comment is necessary. So with the next:

"SAM HILL, Some hell, replacing the name of a notoriously wild-tongued man."

"SCALING DOWN, Repudiation of debt." This is about the nearest right of the whole list, incorrect as it is. *Scaling down* is a sort of compromise (or composition, I believe the English call it), involving indeed some deduction from the debt, but by no means repudiation. In fact a debt could not be both repudiated and scaled down.

"SCREED, A pelt or muck-running." Does this definition suggest any idea to the reader? It is a meaningless group of words to me. A screed is simply a newspaper story.

"SQUASHO, Negro, probably from the negro's love of melons, pumpkins, squashes, &c." There's etymology for you. Did any reader ever hear a negro called a squasho?

"STUCK UP, Moneyless, figurative expression derived from being 'stuck up' by highwaymen." Who ever heard of a man's being "stuck up by highwaymen"? Who ever heard of "stuck up" used in any meaning than conceited?

"TAKE IN, Patronize, from taking in papers." No





American "takes in" a paper; he simply takes it. To take in is to bamboozle, fool, delude.

"TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION, One of the more fiery American drinks." Did the reader ever taste, or hear of, any beverage so called?

"WOLVERINES, People of Michigan, probably from the territory's being over-run with wolves." Why the Michiganders are ever called wolverines, I don't know; but certainly a wolverine is not a wolf.

"YALLER DOG; Yellow is the tint of most dogs in America; hence it is the most searching term of ordinary contempt." I think that entry may be noted without comment, and may appropriately wind up the list of Americanisms according to Ware.

## CHAPTER SIX

## THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE SUBJECT

The first section of the following list is believed to be complete. The second section, of course, cannot claim to be more than an attempt. The third and fourth sections, combined with the bibliographical work of the Dialect Society referred to at the end of this chapter, are believed to cover, without very serious omission, all periodicals in the English language to about the close of the last century. Since that epoch, periodical literature has so enormously expanded, with such great diversification in style and contents, that it has become quite impossible to review it exhaustively. It is hoped that constant and diligent study of all published indexes to such literature has resulted in securing references to all important articles in important monthlies, quarterlies, and many weeklies; though undoubtedly many contributions of some value in more "popular" journals, and especially in daily papers, have escaped the compiler's attention, which is regrettable; but how in the world could anybody get them all?

## I

## BOOKS ENTIRELY DEVOTED TO "AMERICANISMS"

1. A VOCABULARY, or Collection of Words and Phrases which have been supposed to be peculiar to the United States, to which is prefixed an Essay on the Present State of the English Language in the United States. By JOHN PICKERING. Boston; Cummings & Hilliard, 1816; 8vo; pp. 208.
2. LETTER to the Hon. John Pickering, on the subject of his Vocabulary. By NOAH WEBSTER. Boston; West & Richardson, 1817; small 8vo; pp. 60.
3. GLOSSARY OF SUPPOSED AMERICANISMS, collected by ALFRED L. ELWYN, M.D. Philadelphia; J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1859; 12mo; pp. 122.
4. AMERICANISMS; the English of the New World. By M. SCHELE DE VERE, LL.D. New York; Charles Scribner & Co., 1872; 8vo; pp. 686.
5. DICTIONARY OF AMERICANISMS; a Glossary of Words and Phrases usually regarded as peculiar to the United States. By JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT. Fourth edition. Boston; Little, Brown & Co., 1877; 8vo; pp. 814.
6. AMERICANISMS, Old and New, a Dictionary of Words, Phrases and Colloquialisms peculiar to the United States, British America, the West Indies, etc., etc., their Derivation, Meaning and Application, together with numerous Anecdotal, Historical, Explanatory and Folk-Lore Notes. Compiled and edited by JOHN S. FARMER. London; Thos. Poulter & Sons, 1889; "foolscap 4to"; pp. 564.
7. POLITICAL AMERICANISMS; a Glossary of Terms and Phrases current at different periods in American Poli-

tics. By CHARLES LEDYARD NORTON. New York; Longmans, Green & Co., 1890; 16mo; pp. 134.

8. NEW DICTIONARY OF AMERICANISMS, being a Glossary of Words supposed to be Peculiar to the United States and Canada. By SYLVA CLAPIN. New York; Louis Weiss & Co.; no date, but issued in July, 1902; 8vo; pp. 582.
9. AN AMERICAN GLOSSARY, being an Attempt to Illustrate Certain Americanisms on Historical Principles. By RICHARD H. THORNTON. London; Francis & Co., 1912; 8vo, two volumes; pp. together, 990.
10. THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE, a Preliminary Inquiry into the Development of English in the United States. By H. L. MENCKEN, New York; Alfred A. Knopf, 1919; 8vo; pp. 374.
11. A HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN SPEECH. By PROF. CALVIN L. LEWIS. Chicago; Scott, Foresman & Co., 1910; 12mo; pp. 246.
12. PLEA FOR AN AMERICAN LANGUAGE. By ELIAS MOLEE. Chicago; John Anderson & Co., 1888.
13. WOORDENBOEK DER ENGELSCHE SPREEKTAAL AND AMERICANISMS. By A. E. BARENTZ. Amsterdam, 1894.
14. PRONUNCIATION OF STANDARD ENGLISH IN AMERICA. By PROF. GEO. P. KRAPP. Oxford University Press, 1919; 12mo; pp. 236. The preface says: "It seems scarcely credible that any one who knows the facts should think it possible to impose British standards upon American speech."
15. THE QUESTION OF OUR SPEECH. By HENRY JAMES, Boston; Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1905.

## TWO PAMPHLETS OF IMPORTANCE

ENGLISH IN THE UNITED STATES. By W. C. BENET. Abbeville, S. C., 1880.

THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE. By J. F. HEALY. Pittsburg, Pa., no date, about 1911.

## II

## CHAPTERS OR PARTS OF BOOKS

1. JOHN WITHERSPOON, D.D. Essays on Americanisms, Perversions of Language in the United States, Cant Phrases, etc., in 4th vol. of his works, published in 8vo, Philadelphia, 1801. (The earliest work on American vulgarisms. Originally published as a series of essays, entitled "The Druid," which appeared in a periodical in 1761.)
2. ADIEL SHERWOOD. Gazetteer of Georgia. Charleston, 1827; Philadelphia, 1829; Washington, 1837. Has glossary of slang and vulgar words used in the Southern States.
3. T. ROMEYN BECK, M.D., LL.D. "Notes on Pickering's Vocabulary." Albany Institute Transactions, Vol. I, p. 25; Albany, N. Y., 1830.
4. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL. Biglow Papers, 1848, 1864. Introductions to First and Second Series, and Glossary.
5. CHARLES ASTOR BRISTED. "The English Language in America," in Cambridge Essays. London; John W. Parker & Son, 1855. (Shows "rare" meat, and "corned" for *drunk*, to be expressions of English origin.)
6. W. C. FOWLER, LL.D. English Grammar. New York; Harper & Bros., 1855, 8vo; pp. 119–129. Also 12mo, 1858; pp. 23–27.
7. GEORGE P. MARSH. Lectures on the English Language. Fourth edition; New York; Charles Scribner's Sons, 1859. Lecture 30, "The English Language in America."

8. G. F. GRAHAM. A Book about Words; London; Longmans, Green & Co., 1869; chap. 13, "Slang Words and Americanisms."

9. R. G. WHITE. Words and Their Uses; New York; Sheldon & Co., 1870; chap. 3, "British-English and American-English." Also, Every-day English; Boston; Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1880; chap. 6, "American Speech."

10. PROF. W. D. WHITNEY. Language and the Study of Language, 5th edition; New York; Charles Scribner & Co., 1870; pp. 171–174.

11. G. C. EGGLESTON. A Man of Honor; New York; Orange Judd Co., 1873. (Illustrates various Virginia provincialisms.)

12. A. J. ELLIS. Early English Pronunciation; London; Trübner & Co., 1874. Part 4, pp. 1217–'30. (Includes considerable notice of pronunciation used by American humorists.)

13. G. A. BARRINGER. *"Etude sur l'Anglais parlé aux Etats Unis (La Langue Americaine),"* in *Actes de la Société Philologique de Paris,* March, 1874. (Largely transferred from De Vere.)

14. GILBERT M. TUCKER. Our Common Speech. New York; Dodd, Mead & Co., 1895. Pages 151–234, "American English."

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Also various encyclopaedias—the American, Appleton's, Chambers', Library of Universal Knowledge, &c. Article "Americanisms."

## III

## ARTICLES IN FOREIGN PERIODICALS

(The figures at the left of the decimal point indicate the volume; those at the right, the page.)

ACADEMY: 47.193; 47.278; 47.317.

ALL THE YEAR ROUND: 25.270; 76.38.

ARCHIV FUR DAS STUDIUM DER NEUEREN SPRACHEN: 4.1 ("Die Englische Sprache in Nordamerika").

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE: 89.421; 102.399 ("Inroads upon English"); 183.118. Copied in Littell's Living Age, 95.218.

CANADIAN MONTHLY: 1.87. (Review of De Vere.)

CHAMBERS' JOURNAL: April 19, 1856, p. 249; Dec. 20, 1873, p. 801; March 31, 1875, p. 171; Sept. 25, 1875; p. 609; Jan. 30, 1886, p. 70.

CORNHILL MAGAZINE: 58.363.

DIE NEUEREN SPRACHEN: 2.243; 2.520 ("English in America," by Prof. C. H. Grandgent).

ECLECTIC REVIEW: (N. S.) 13.356—April, 1820 (Review of Pickering).

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS: 82.87 (G. A. Sala, Review of Tucker in North-American Review); 84.339 (Sala, Review of Tucker in Albany Institute Transactions); 84.543 (Sala, Reply to Smalley in N. Y. Tribune).

KNOWLEDGE: 6.319; 8.171; 9.159, 178, 196, 249, 275, 332, 352; 10.14, 38, 41, 66, 113, 183, 230, 274; 11.28, 82, 129, 183, 223.

LEISURE HOUR: 26.110; 36.827.

LONDON QUARTERLY: 57.392 (Review of De Vere).

LONDON TIMES: Sept. 12, 1912, Lit. Sup., page 358 (Review of Thornton).

LONGMAN'S MAGAZINE: 1.80 ("Some points in American Speech," by E. A. Freeman).

MONTH: 94.63 (Says: "No one could possibly take Mr. Henry James or Mr. Howells for an Englishman.")

NINETEENTH CENTURY, September, 1880. ("English, Rational and Irrational," by Fitzedward Hall.)

PALL MALL MAGAZINE: 19.188 ("The American Language," by William Archer. Very interesting and sensible).

PENNY MAGAZINE: July 21, 1838, p. 278. (Severe on American speech.)

QUARTERLY REVIEW: 10.528.

SATURDAY REVIEW: 60.709 (Review of "Political Americanisms" in Mag. of Am. Hist.); 62.142; 62.190; 78.321.

SPECTATOR: 62.493 (Review of Farmer).

TINSLEY'S MAGAZINE: 29.330 (by Albany de Fonblanque—hot denunciation of American speech).

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE: July 18, 1913 ("Ought American to be taught in our Schools?").

WESTMINSTER REVIEW: 130.35 (No dialects in United States); No. 234, October, 1882, p. 279, Scott edition (Admits that the English call *now* "*nao*.").

## IV

## ARTICLES IN AMERICAN PERIODICALS

ANALECTIC MAGAZINE: 3.404. (Sarcastic [?] defense of American freedom of speech; recommends invention of a new language.)

APPLETONS' JOURNAL: (N. S.) 11.315. ("English and American-English," by Richard A. Proctor, from Gentleman's Magazine).

ARENA: 20.537.

ATLANTIC MONTHLY: 6.667; 40.233; 41.495 (R. G. White,

Review of Bartlett); 41.656 (do.); 42.97 (do.); 42.342 (do.); 42.619 (do.); 42.643 (Reply to White); 43.88 (White on Bartlett); 43.109 (freight train and spool); 43.379 (White on Bartlett); 43.656 (do.); 44.654 (White, "Assorted Americanisms"); 45.428 (Reply to White); 45.669 (White, "British Americanisms"); 47.697 (White, supplementary to Bartlett articles); 48.849; 52.792; 53.286; 53.290; 55.593 (R. A. Proctor, "The Misused H of England"); 55.856 (right away); 76.708; 104.135 (dialects); 115.360 (concludes that "we [Americans] have an unquestionable right to the pronunciation natural to ourselves").

BOOKMAN: 5.96; 11.446 (survivals of old pronunciations); 12.243 (do.); 26.533 (Whibley); 26.586 (satire on Whibley); 27.63 (reply to Whibley—calls him "careless and peevish").

BUFFALO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER: Sept. 10–11, 1888. (Article on pronunciation, from Critic.)

CENTURY: 47(25).848 ("Wild Flowers of English Speech in America," by Edward Eggleston); 48(26).867 ("Folk Speech in America," by Edward Eggleston).

CHAUTAUQUAN: 22.436 (American dialects).

CHICAGO NEWS, March 10, 1890 (London letter from Eugene Field).

COSMOPOLITAN: 30.274 (by Brander Matthews, chatty and general but sensible and interesting).

CRITIC: 13.97, 104, 115, 263; 36.81.

CURRENT LITERATURE: 35.492.

DIAL: 14.233; 33.29; 48.40; 54.380; 95.11 (review of Thornton).

DIALECT NOTES: 1.428 ("British vs. American English" from the British point of view). Notes on American provincialisms appear in every issue of Dialect Notes, and it would therefore be useless to list them here.

ECLECTIC MAGAZINE: 132.60 (by William Archer).

EDUCATION: 13.367.

ENGLISH JOURNAL: 2.266; 6.1. ("The Standard of American Speech," by Prof. F. N. Scott.)

FORUM: 2.117. ("Americanisms in England," by A. C. Coxe.)

GALAXY: 21.521 (White, Pronunciation); 24.376 (White on Bartlett); 24.681 (do.).

HARPER'S BAZAR: 30.958 (by T. W. Higginson).

HARPER'S MONTHLY: 66.665 (Sussex Expressions); 83.215 (Brander Matthews, "Briticisms and Americanisms"); 85.277 (Matthews, American spelling); 90.252 (H. C. Lodge, Shakespeare's Americanisms); 126.417; 126.618; 127.133; 127.274; 127.586 (last five by T. R. Lounsbury); 129.103; 131.436 (Kentucky mountain provincialisms); 140.846 (Plea for disregarding British usage when it differs from American).

HARPER'S WEEKLY: 39.1037 (W. D. Howells); 54.6; 56.25; 59.105.

HOME JOURNAL: Oct. 25, 1899.

HOURS AT HOME: 5.361 (Review of "Queen's English," by F. W. Shelton).

INDEPENDENT: 52.410; 53.2706; 65.765; 67.477.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW: 8.472 ("English Language in America," by Lounsbury; 8.596 (do.).

JOURNAL OF EDUCATION: 84.41 (pronunciation).

LADIES' HOME JOURNAL: 20.46 ("American brogue").

LAKESIDE MONTHLY: 3.154.

LIFE: 74.47 (Bright satire, worth reading).

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE: 3.310 (Provincialisms); 4.345; 5.545; 19.513; 31.378 (Review of Freeman in Longman's); 44.121 (mugwump).

LITERARY DIGEST: 46.1386; 47.212; 50.1468; 50.830; 53.708; 53.848.

LITERARY WORLD: 14.364.

(LITTELL'S) LIVING AGE: 20.79 (Review of Bartlett, from Boston *Advertiser*); 95.218 ("Inroads upon English," from Blackwood, as above); 100.636 (Review of Zincke's "Last Winter in the United States," from Spectator); 114.446; 120.240 ("United States English," from Chambers' Journal); 132.821 (from Leisure Hour); 155.483 (Freeman's Longmans' article); 179.298 (The Great American Language, from Cornhill Magazine); 204.438 ("All the Year Round" article); 219.514; 251.654; 254.123.

M'CLURE'S MAGAZINE: 47.87.

MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN HISTORY: 12.564 (C. L. Norton, Political Americanisms); 13.98 (do.); 13.199 (do.); 13.295 (do.); 13.394 (do.); 13.495 (do.); 13.599 (comments on foregoing).

MODERN PHILOLOGY: 6.53.

MUNSEY'S MAGAZINE: 40.345 (Brander Matthews; notes formation of "American Language League" to change name of our speech to "American").

NATION: 5.428; 6.392; 11.56 (Pennsylvania provincialisms); 11.72 (do.); 14.28 (Savage Review of De Vere); 14.45 (Review of Hoosier Schoolmaster); 16.148 (North Carolina provincialisms); 16.183 (do.); 17.113 (Words from Indian languages); 18.380 (Review of Barringer); 21.8 (Penn. pro.); 26.171 (Review of Bartlett); 26.243 (Review of Bartlett); 32.184 (blizzard); 32.208 (do.); 32.220 (do.); 32.260 (do.); 49.15 (Review of Farmer); 57.484; 84.28; 95.11 (Review of Thornton); 108.698 (Review of Mencken).

NATIONAL QUARTERLY REVIEW: 2.230 (Review of Pickering and Bartlett).

NEW ENGLAND MAGAZINE: 6.583 (shows New England provincialisms to be old English); 15.337.

NEW ENGLANDER: (N.S.) 3.429.

NEW YORK EVENING POST: April 12, 1919 (Review of Mencken).

NEW YORK TRIBUNE: Aug. 14, 1881 (Proctor); May 17, 1884 (G. W. Smalley on Sala on Tucker); Sept. 29, 1894 (Smalley).

NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW: 3.355 (Review of Pickering); 69.94 (Review of Bartlett); 91.507 (Review of Marsh's Lectures); 136.55 (Tucker, American English); 141.431 ("Slang in America," by Walt Whitman); 146.709 (lagniappe and brottus); 147.102 (brottus); 147.348 (brottus, buckra, goober); 147.475 (lagniappe and brottus); 207.91 (general review of the subject, concluding that "the day may easily come when an American may find himself unable to make himself understood in England, and the same with an Englishman in America"); 209.697 (Review of Mencken; calls it "the book of the month").

OUTLOOK: 72.397; 89.236; 91.17; 96.632 ("Yankee in British Fiction," absurdities of his speech).

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY: 32.387; 69.324.

PUTNAM'S MONTHLY: 16.519.

RURAL NEW YORKER: 49.231 (North Carolina Provincialisms).

SAN FRANCISCO NEWSLETTER: Vol. 49, No. 25 (Pronunciation).

SCHOOL REVIEW:23.381 (British and American Pronunciation —thoughtful and interesting).

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE: 29.360 (Brander Matthews); 41.653 (H. C. Lodge); 45.378; 68.621 (Brander Matthews).

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY: 3.379 (Review of De Vere).

SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSENGER: 2.110; 14.623 (Review of Bartlett).

SOUTHERN METHODIST QUARTERLY: N. S., 9.248 (valuable article).

SOUTHERN REVIEW: N. S., 9.290 and 9.529 (Review of Bartlett's and Webster's dictionaries, severe on American English).

For other references, arranged on a different plan from that followed in the foregoing list, and including matter not strictly germane to the purposes of this book, see Mencken, p. 323, and also Dialect Notes, 1.13, 80, 254 and 344, and 2.151. The list in the initial number of Dialect Notes, and placed at the beginning of that issue, was intended as a supplement to the first bibliography of Americanisms ever compiled, which was that appended by the present writer to his paper on "American English," Albany Institute Transactions, Vol. 10, p. 358.

# INDEX


abergoins, 228
aboard (a land vehicle), 228
abolitiondom, 228
abolitionist, 228
abolitionize, 228
aboriginal, 228
above one's bend, 228
above snakes, 228
abrasive, 228
abskize, 228
absquatulate, 228
abutter, 228
according to Gunter, 73
account, 73
accountability, 74
accumulative, 229
acknowledge the corn, 228
across lots, 228
acruffs, 229
acting, 74
addressee, 74
admire, 74
adobes, 229
adulterer, 74
adventism, 229
affiliate, 75
affiliations, 229
Africanize, 229
after, 229
afternight, 75
agaze, 229
age, 229
agee, 75
ague mispronounced, 229
aim, 75
aint, 225
air-line, 229
airy, 75
alarmist, 75
Albany beef, 229, 320
Albany hemp, 229
Albany regency, 229
alcoholism, 75
alewife, 229
Algerine, 229
Algic, 229
alienage, 75
alienism, 229
alkali desert, 229
all any more, 229
all-a-setting, 229
all-day, 229
all-fired, 75
all-hollow, 229
all-possessed, 229
all sorts, all sorts of, 229
all the go, all the rage, 229
all the time, 229
all two, 230
alley, 76
alligator, 76
allot upon, 230
allottee, 229
allow, 25, 76, 230
allspice, 76
almond, 32
almshouse, 76
along, 76
alter, 230
alumnus, 76
ambia, 230
ambition, 230
ambitious, 230
ambuscade, 230
amen corner, 320
amenability, 77
Americanism, Americanize, 230
among, 230
among the missing, 230
ampersand, 77
annunciator, 77
and the rise, 230
angel, 230
angeliferous, 230
angle worm, 230
animule, 230

anog, 230
antagonize, 77, 221, 223
ante, 230
antehumous, 230
anti-bank, 230
anti-federalist, 230
antifogmatic, 230
anti-masonry, 230
anti-negro, 231
anti-rentism, 231
anti-slavery, 231
anti-southern, 231
anti-union, 231
any, 77
anything else, 231
antony over, 231
anxious meeting, 231
anxious seat, 231
apartment, 231
apishamore, 231
appellate, 77
appetitical, 231
apple brandy, 231
apple butter, 231
applecart, 78
apple leather, 231
apple peeling, 231
apple toddy, 231
appointable, 78
appreciate, appreciation, 231
Arab, 231
arctics, 231, 320
argufy, 78
Arkansas toothpick, 231
armory, 231
arm-shop, 231
around, 232
arrow, 232
arter, 232
ary, 232
as good as, 232
as long as, 232
ascotch, 232
ash cake, 232
ashlanders, 232
assemblyman, 232
assininity, 78
assign, 78
associational, 232
associationist, 232
asterism, 232
at (verb), 232
at auction, 232
at (after *where*), 78
at the north or south, 232
at that, 232
a-tremble, 78
attitudinize, 79
attleborough, 232
authoress, 79
available, availability, 232
avails, 79
avalanche, 233
ax to grind, 321

babes, 233
back, 233
back and forth, 79
back country, 233
back down, 233, 321
back furrow, 233
back log, 233
back out, 79
back setting, 233
back talk, 233
back track, 233
backward, 79
back water, 233
backwoods, 233
bad, 79
baggage, 71, 79
bail, 80
bait, 233
baiting, 80
baker, 233
bake-shop, 233
balance, 233
bald-face, 233
balk, 80
ball up, 233
ballyhack, 234
ballyrag, 234
bam, 80
banana, 81
bang, 234
bang-up, 81
bango, 234
banjo, 81
banker, 234
bank sneak, 234
banquette, 60, 81
banter, 234

barbecue, 81
barberize, 234
barn, 234
barrack, 234
barracoon, 234
barriclade, 234
barrens, 82, 287
bartender, barkeeper, 234
baseball, 82, 322
basilar, 82
bat, 82, 234
bayou, 234
beach-comber, 234
bead, 234
beadles, 322
bear, 82
beard, 82
beast, 44
beat, dead beat, 105, 234
beat out, 234
beau, 82
beaver-dam, 83
bedrock, 83
bedspread, 234
bee, 235
bee gum, 235
beef, 83
beef-heads, 322
behindments, 235
being, 83
beliked, 83
belittle, 235
bell hop, 235
belongings, 83
belt, 235
bender, 83
bent, 235
best, 84
bestowment, 235
betty, 235
biddy, 84
biff, 235
big, 235
biggity, 235
big-head, 235
bilberry, 84
bile, 84
biling, 84
bilk, 84
billion, 235
billy, 84
bindweed, 84
bindery, 235
bishop, 235
bislings, 235
bit, 235
blackberry, 84
blackleg, 85
blacklist, 85
blacksnake, 236
blacky, 85
blamed, 236
blank please, 322
blankety, 236
blatancy, 85
blatherskite, 236
blatt, 236
blaze, 236
bleachers, 236
blickey, 236
blind, 236
blinders, 236
blizzard, 236
bloated, 236
block, 236
blood tubs, 236
Bloomer costume, 236
blotter, 85
blow, 85
blower, 236
blowhard, 236
blowout, 85
blow up, 236
bluebacks, 236
blue-blood, 85
blue-book, 86
blue-fish, 86
blue-grass, 323
bluelights, 236
blue-noses, 323
blue-pig, 323
blue pill, 236
bluff, 86, 237
blummechies, 237
blummies, 237
blur-eyed, 86
boatable, 237
bob, 237
bob sled, 237
bob veal, 237
bobolink, 323
bockey, 237

bodaciously, 237
body bolt, 237
bogus, 237
bolt, 237
bombo, 237
bonanza, 237
bone, 237
bones, 86
boneyard, 237
boodle, 237
boohoo, 86
bookstore, 237
boom, 237
boost, 237
boot, 237
bootlick, 237
borning-ground, 237
bosom of a shirt, 238
boss, 238
bothersome, 238
bottom, bottoms, 86
bounce, 238
bound, 86
bounty jumper, 238
Bourbon, 238
bower, in euchre, 238
bowling-alley, 87
box, 238
box car, 238
box coat, 238
brace up, take a brace, 238
brainy, 87
branch (brook), 238
brave (Indian warrior), 238
breadstuff, 238
break, 238
breakback, 238
breakbone fever, 238
breakdown, 238
bred (impregnated), 238
brick in the hat, 238
brickly, 87
brief, 87
bright, 87
brill, 238
bring up, 87
Briticism, 42, 239
Britisher, 239
broadhorn, 239
brogues, 239
broncho, 239
broomstick, 323
brotus, brottus, 239
broughtens up, 239
brown, 87
bruiser, 87
brummagem, 88
brung, 239
bub, bubby, 239
buccaneer, 239
buck, 88, 239
buckboard, 239
bucket, 25, 239
bucket shop, 239
buck fever, 239
buckle, 88
buck shot, 239
buckskin, 239
bucktails, 240
buffalo, buffalo robe, 240
bug, 88
bugaboo, 88
bulge, to get, 240
bulger, 240
bull boat, 240
bully, 89
bulldoze, 240
bull plow, 240
bull's eye, 240
bullwhacker, 240
bum, bummer, 240
bumper, 240
bun, 240
bunch (verb), 240
bunco, bunko, 240, 324
buncombe, 240, 324
bundle, 240
bungay, 240
bungo, 240
Bungtown copper, 240
bunk, 89
bunker, 240
burdensome, 240
bureau, 89
burgall, 240
burgle, burglarize, 240
burro, 89
bushwhacker, 241
bust, 89
buster, 241
butt, 241
butte, 241

butter-fingered, 241
butterine, 241
butternut, 241
buzz, buzzer, 89
buzz saw, 241
by and again, 241
by-and-large, 89
by-bidder, 24
by sun, 241

cable, cablegram, 241
caboodle, 241
caboose, 90
cache, 90
cack, 241
cade, 90
cadeau, 90
cahoot, 241
calabash, 90
calaboose, 90
calash, 90
calculate, 25, 91
calibogus, 242
callithumpian, 242
call (in stock market), 241
call down, 242
calloused, 91
campaign, 242
camphene, 242
campus, 242
canaille, 242
candidacy, 242
candidate, candidateship, 91
candlelighting, 91
canebrake, 242
cane-rush, 242
cannot, can only, 242
canon, 242
cantaloupe, 91
cant-hook, 91
Canuck, 242
canvass, 92
cap all, 92
capper, 242
caption, 242
car, 92
carf, 92
car-house, 242
carman, 92
carom, 93
carpet bagger, 243
carriole, 243
carry (portage), 243
carryall, 243
carry away, 93
carrylog, 243
carry on, 93
cast, 93
case, 243
casket (coffin), 243
cat (in fishing), 243
catamount, 93
catawampous, catawamptious, 243
cat boat, 243
catch, 93
catch-all, 243
catch on, 243
catechise, 94
catfish, 94
cat-haul, 243
caucus, 243, 318
caution, 94
cave-in, 94
Cavendish, 243
cavort, 243
celestial, 243
cent, 243
certain, 94
chained lightning, 94
chance, 94
chance (quantity), 243
chaparral, 244
charade, 32
charlotte, charlotte-russe, 244
check, cheque, 35, 94, 244
checkers, 244
cheese, 95
chemiloon, 244
chess, 95
chestnut, 244
chin (chatter), 244
chince, 244
chinch, chinchbug, chintz, 244
Chink (Chinaman), 244
chip, 244
chip in, 244
chipper, 95
chipmunk, 244
chippy, 244
chirivari, 244
chirk, 95

chisel, 95
chitlins, 244
chock-full, 95
chock up, 244
choke off, 95
choker, 96
chompins, 244
chop, 96
chore, 96
chuck-a-luck, 244
chucklehead, 96
chump, 324
chunk, 68
chunk, chunky, 244
churchism, 245
churchmaul, 245
chute, 96
cider oil, 245
cimlin, cymbling, 245, 251
cinch, 245
citified, 245
citizenize, 245
citron, 245
civism, 96
claggy, 245
claim, 25, 245, 324
clamshell, 245
clamtrap, 245
clapmatch, clockmutch, 245
classy, 245
clatterments, 245
clatterwhacking, 245
clawhammer, 245
clear, 245
clear grit, 245
clearing, 245
clearing-house, 96
clear out, 246
clevel, 96
clever, 97
clevis, 97
climb down, 97
clingstone, 246
clingjohn, 246
clinker-built, 97
close out, 246
cloud, 97
cloudburst, 246
clove (valley), 246
coach, 97
coachwhip, 97
coast (down hill), 246
coatee, 246
cob, 246
cobbler, 246
cockarouse, 246
cocktail, 246
cocky, 98
C. O. D., 246
codding, 246
co-ed, 246
coffin boat, 246
cohees, 246
cold slaw, 246
cold sore, 246
collapsity, 246
collar, 98
collards, 246
collarette, 98
collateral, 98
collect, 246
colored, 247
combine, 98
come down, 247
come in, 247
come out, 99
come over, 99
commander, 99
commencement, 99
commons, 99
commune, 99
commutation, 221
compare, 99
compassive, 247
complected, 247
compliment, 247
compromit, 99
compus, 247
comstockism, 325
concededly, 247
concerned, 247
conductor (of train), 247
confectioner, 99
confectionery, 247
Confederate, 247
conferrees, 247
confidence man, 247
confidence queen, 325
congressional, 247
congressman, 247
coniacker, koniacker, 247
conk, 247

connection, 100
conniption, 247
connubiate, 247
consequentious, 100
considerable, 247
consociate, consociation, 100
constitutionality, 100
contemplate, 100
contestee, 247
continuance, 100
contraband, 247
contraption, 100
contrive, 100
convene, 248
coodies, 248
cook, 100
cookey, 101
cooler, 248
coolly, coulée, 248
coon, 248
copperhead, 248
copse, 101
cordelle, 248
corduroy road, 248
corked, 101
corn (maize), 248
cornjuice, 248
corn trash, 248
corned (drunk), 335
corner in market, 249
corporosity, 249
corral, 249
cotch, 249
councilmanic, 249
count, 101, 249
counterjumper, 101
country jake, 249
county house, 249
couple, 249
cove, 101
cover short sale, 249
coverlid, 101
cowcatcher, 249
cowhide, 101
cowlick, 249
cowskin, 249
crab, 249
crab lantern, 249
crab schooner, 249
crack, cracksman, 102
crackajack, 249
cracker, 102, 249, 325
cracklings, 249
crack loo, 249
crack on, 249
cradle-scythe, 102
cram, 102
crank, 249
cranky, 102
craps, 249
crawfish, 249
crawm, 250
crazybone, 250
creamer, creamery, 250
creeper, 102
crease, 250
creek, 250
creole, 250, 325
crevasse, 102
crib, 103
crisscross, 103
crook, 250
crookneck, 250
cropper, 250
cross timber, 250
crotch, 250
crotchikal, 250
crowd, 250
crower, 250
cruel, 103
cruller, 250
crush, 103, 250
cry, 250
C. S., 324
cuffy, 250
cultivate, 104
cull, 103
cunning, 104
curios, 250
curious, 104
cuspidor, 250
cuss, 104
cussedness, 250
cussword, 251
customable, 104
customer, 104
custom-made, 251
cut (in college), 251
cut and dried, 251
cut a splurge, 251
cut capers, cut didoes, 251
cut dirt, 251

cut-off, 251
cut round, 251
cut-throat, 325
cut under, 251
cuteness, 104
cutter, 251
cut-up, 105
cymbling, 245, 251

daddock, 105
daddy longlegs, 105
daisy, dandy, 251
dampen, 326
dandified, 105
dare for may, 251
darky, 251
darnation, 105
daydown, 251
deacon, 251
dead, 105
dead beat, 105, 234
dead broke, 251
deaden, 251
deadhead, 251
dead rabbits, 252
dead set, 105
deal, 106
decedent, 252
declension, declination, 252
dehorn, 252
demean, 106
demonstrate, 106
demote, 252
dengue, 252
depot, 106
derail, 106
derrick, 106
desk, 106
desperate, 252
despisement, 106
detail, 107
detrain, 107
dewberry, 107
dicker, 252
did not have, 107
difference, 108
difficulted, 108
dig, 108, 252
digging, 108
dime, 108
dime museum, 326
ding, dinged, 252
dingbats, 252
dingee, dinky, 108
dingle, 252
dingling, 109
dip, 252
dipper, 109, 252
dipsy, 109
dippy, 252
directly, 21
dirt, 252
dirt road, 327
disfellowship, 109
disgruntled, 109
disguised, 109
dish gravy, 252
disremember, 109
disunionist, 109
dite, 110
ditty bag, 252
dive, 252
divide, 252
divort, 110
dizzy, 252
dobber, 252
dock (pier), 252
docket, 253
dockwalloper, 253
doctor, 253
dod rot it, 253
dodger, 253
dog, 110, 253
doggery, 253
doings, 253
doless, 110
dolittle, 110
do me, 253
donate, 253
donation, 110
done with past participle, 253
donock, dornick, 253
do-nothing, 110
doodlebug, 253
doom (tax), 253
dory, 110
doted, 110
double, 111
double house, 253
double-jaded, 253
double ripper, 253
dough, dough head, 253

doughface, 111
doughnut, 111, 327
dove, dived, 111
down, 111
down country, 253
down upon, 111
dozy, 253
drat it, 111
draw (part of bridge), 253
draw a bead, 253
dressing, 112
dress-suit case, 254
drink, 254
drive, driver, 112
driveway, 254
driving park, 254
droger, 112
drop, drop letter, drop light, 254
drudge, 254
drugstore, 254
drummer, 112
drunk, 112
dry, 254
dry goods, 254
dry up, 254
dubersome, 112
dude, 254
dumb betty, 254
dumbwaiter, 254
dummy, 112
dump, 254
dumpage, 254
dumpy, 113
dunfish, 254
dungaree, 254
dunky, 254
durned, 254
dust, 113
duster (garment), 255
dutchman, 255
dutiable, 113

ear bob, 113
earhoop, earlock, eartab, 255
east, about, 255
eat, 255
ebenezer, 255
edibles, 113
editorial, 255
educational, 113
eel spear, 113
egg on, 114
eighteen-carat, 327
elect to, 114
electioneering, 114
electricute, 255
ell, 255
empt, 114
engage, 114
engine, 224
engineer, 114
enjoy bad health, 114
enthuse, 255
enweave, 114
episcopize, 255
erupt, 115
escopette, 255
esquire, 115
European plan, 255
evener, 255
evening, 25, 255
eventuate, 255
everglades, 255
every which way, 256
evincive, 256
exchangeability, 256
exchanges, 256
excur, 318
excursionist, 256
executive, 256
exercises, 256
exflunct, 256
expect, 25, 43, 115
exposition, 116
express, 256

faculate, 256
fair, 116, 256
fair and square, 116
fake, 116
faker, 256
fall (a tree), 116
fall (season), 318
falling weather, 256
fallway, 256
family, 116
fan (baseball), 256
fandango, 116
fantail (steamer), 256
farina, 117
fatwood, 256
fay in, 117

faze, 256
fearful, 117
feast (fastidious), 257
feather (said of cream), 257
feature, 257
federal, federalize, 117
federalist, 257
feed, 117
feel like, 257
feel to do, 118
fellowship, 118
fen, 118
fence (of wood), 118
fence (receiver of stolen goods), 119
fetch (a scream), 257
fetching, 257
fetch up, 257
fetterlock, 257
few, a little, 119
F. F. V., 257
fiat money, 257
fid, 119
fiendishment, 257
file (cloth), 257
filibuster, 119
fill (embankment), 257
fillipeen, philopena, 257
fills, 119
find, 119
findings, 257
finefied, 119
fip, fippeny, 119
fire, fire out, 120
fire away, 257
fire-bug, fire-hunt, 257
firedogs, 120
fire-eater, 120
fire-hook, 120
fire-wood, 120
first-class, first-rate, 120
fish story, 257
fishy, 120
fist, 257
fit, fought, 121
fix, 121
fix up, 257
fixings, 257
fizzle, 257
flat, 258
flakes, 121
flapdoodle, 121
flare, 121
flashboard, 121
flash in pan, 122
flat, 122
flat-boat, 122
flat-broke, 258
flat out, 258
flatfooted, 258
flats, 258
fleabane, 122
fleabitten, 258
flip, 122
float, floats, 258
floater, 258
floodwood, 258
floor, 258
floorwalker, 258
flowage, 258
flubdub, 258
flume, 258
flunky, 258
flush, 258
flutterwheel, 258
fly (swamp), 258
flyer, 258
flyingfish, 122
folks, 122
foofoo, 258
foot (a bill), 258
foot hill, 258
footy, 123
for, in honor of, 123
forehanded, 123
forge ahead, 123
fork, 258
fork over, fork up, 259
forwarding merchant, 259
fotch, 123
fox, repair, 123
fox-fire, 123
foxy, 123
fracas, 32
fraggle, 259
frail, 259
frame house, 259
frame-up, 259
fraud, 124
freak, 124, 327
free to confess, 124
freestone, 259

freeze, freezer, freeze out, 259
freight, 259
French, Frenchy, Frenching, 259
fresh, 124
froe, 124
frog, 259
frolic, 124
front name, 259
frosted, 259
frowchey, 259
fudge, 259
fugelman, 124
full chisel, 259
fundum, 260
funeral, 125
funk, 125
furore, 260
fyke, 260

gabblement, 125
gale, 260
gall, 260
gallinipper, 125
gallus, 125
galoot, 125
galumph, 125
gam, 260
gander party, 260
gange, 126
gang-saw, 260
gangster, 260
ganty, 260
gar, 260
garden truck, 260
garmenture, 126
garnishee, 126
garrison, 126
gat, gate, 126
gather (a single object), 126
gaunted, 126
gavel, 260
gawnicus, 260
G. B., 327
gear up, 260
gee, 127
gent, 127
Gentile, 260
German, 26
gerrymander, 260
get, offspring, 127
get off, 260
get round, 260
get the mitten, 261, 278
get there, 261
gibe, jibe, 261
giggit, 261
gimbal, 261
gin mill, 261
gingersnap, 261
girt, 261
girdle (tree), 127
gism, 261
git, 261
give away, 261, 326
give out, 127
givy, 261
glare, 261
glimpse, 127
globe-trotter, 127
glorify, 127
go (of it), 261
go-ahead, 127
go back on, 261
go by, 261
go-cart, 128
go for, go in for, 261
go it, 128
go off, 261
go through, 261
go to grass, 128
go-to-meeting, 129
go to the bad, 129
go under, go up, 262
goatee, 261
gobbler, 261
gobble up, 261
going, 128
goldenrod, 128
golly, 262
gombo, gumbo, 262
gone case, coon, gander, goose, 262
goneness, 262
goner, 262
gone with, 128
gonus, 262
goober, 128
goody, 129
goose, goose egg, 262
G. O. P., 262
gopher, 262
gosh, 129
gossamer, 262

gospel lot, 262
got, gotten, 46, 129
Gotham, 262
gouge, 262
gouging, 130
governmental, 130
grab bag, grab box, 262
gracious, 262
grade, 130, 262, 263
graft, 263
grain, 130
grandacious, grandiferous, 263
granger, 263
grannified, 263
granny, 263
grant, with infinitive, 130
grass, 130
grass widow, 130
gravel, 130
graveyard, 131
gravy, 263
grayback, 263
greaser, 263
greasewood, 263
great big, 131
Greek, 131
green, 131
greenback, greenbacker, 263
green goods, 263
greening, 131
greens, 131
griffin, griffe, 263
grind, 131
grip, gripsack, 263
grist, 263
grit the teeth, 131
gritting, 263
gritty, 263
grocery, 263
groceries, 132
groggery, 263
grog shop, 264
ground bridge, 264
ground hog, 264
ground nut, 264
ground pea, 264
ground sluicing, 264
group meeting, 264
grouty, 264
growler, 264
grub stake, 264
grunter, 132
guano, 264
guava, 264
gubernatorial, 264
guess, 71, 132
guff, 264
guider, 264
guinea keet, 264
gulch, 264
gully, 133
gum, gummy, 134, 264
gum a saw, 264
gumbo, 264
gum game, 264
gump, 134
gumptious, 134
gums, 264
gun, 265
gunning, 134, 265
gunstick, 134
gurry, 265
gush, 265
gusher, 265
guttersnipe, 134
guy, 265

hackberry, 135
hackmatack, 265
had have, 135
hail from, 265
hake, 135
half-baked, 135
halfbreed, 265
half-faced camp, 265
half jo, 265
half widow, 265
hamfatter, 265
hammock, 135
hand, 135
hand dog, 265
handglasses, 265
handle, 265
handshake, 135
handwrite, 265
hang, hang out, 135
hang of a thing, 265
hang-bird, 265
hang round, 266
hang up, 266
hannahill, 266
hant, 266

happen in, 136
happify, 136
hard case, 266
hard cider, 266
hard coal, 266
hardback, 266
hardhead, 136
hard money, 266
hardpan, 266
hardshell, 266
hardtack, 266
hardwood, 136
harm (adjective), 266
harness cask, 136
harsel stuff, 266
hasty pudding, 136
haul, 136
hawhaw, 137
hay barrack, 266
hayseed, 266
hay tedder, 137
haze, 137
head off, 266
headcheese, 266
headrights, 266
headstall, 137
heap, 137
hear to, 266
heeled, 267
heeler, 267
heave, 137
heavy, 138
heir (verb), 267
hellbender, 267
hellbox, 267
hellion, 267
hen-hussy, 267
hen party, 267
herd's grass, 267
Hessian, Hessian fly, 267
het, 138
hetchel, 138
hewgag, 267
hickory, hickory shirt, 267
hide and coop, 267
hifer, 267
highbinder, 267
highbrow, 267
highfalutin, 267
high muck-a-muck, 267
high-studded, 267
high-toned, 267
highwines, 267
hike, 267
hindsight, 267
hire, 138
hitch, 138
hitch up, 268
hither and yon, 268
hobble, 138
hobo, 138
hock, 268
hockey stick, 138
hod carrier, 139
hoecake, 268
hog age, 268
hogbacks, 139
hogfish, 139
hog mane, 268
hog minder, 268
hog plum, 139
hogwallow, 268
hold on, 268
hold over, 268
hold up, 268
homely, 139
homespun, 139
hominy, 139
honeyfogle, 268
hoodlum, 268
hoodoo, 268
hook, 268
hookey, 268
hoople, 268
Hoosier, 268
hooter, 268
hoppercar, 268
hopping mad, 139
hoptoad, 268
horn, a drink, 139
horn, "in a horn," 140
hornswoggle, 268
horrors, 140
horsecar, 268
horse colt, 140
horse meat, 140
horse railroad, 269
horse sense, 269
hose, 140
hostler, 33
hot slaw, 269
hound, 140

hounds, 140
house (in compounds), 140
housekeep, 269
how, 141
howdy, 269
hubbles, 269
huckleberry, 269
huckleberry above persimmon, 141
huckster, 269
huggermugger, 141
hulking, 141
hull, hulls, 141
huly, 269
human, 141
humanitarian, 141
hummock, 142
hump (one's self), 269
hung, 142
hunkers, 142
hunk, 142, 269
hunkidory, 269
hurra's nest, 269
hurricane, 142
hurricane deck, 269
hurryment, 269
hush up, 142
husking, 269
husky, 269
hustle, 269
hustler, 327
hyper, 269
hypo, 142
hyst, 269

ice-cream, 142
I dad, 269
idea, 269
ill, 143
illy, 143
immediately, 21, 59
immense, 143
improve (land), 143
in (for into), 143
in (noun), 143
in our midst, 143
inaugural, 270
inaugurate, 270
inclined to, 270
indebtedness, 143
Indian corn, 270
Indian file, 270
Indian giver, 270
Indian summer, 270
indiscipline, 270
infair, 144
inflationist, 270
informatory, 270
infract, 270
in interest, 270
injunct, 270
inside of, 270
inside track, 270
institute, 270
institution, 144
insurrect, 144
intervale, 270
interview, 144
interviewer, 270
into (with some figure), 270
inty, 270
inwardness, 144
Irish potato, 270
ironweed, 144
irreliability, 270
irrupt, 144
island, 145
issuance, 270
item, 145
itemize, itemizer, 271

jab, 145
jack at a pinch, 145
jackstones, 271
jackstraws, 145
jag, 271
jail, 35
jam of logs, 145
jam up, 271
jamboree, 271
jay, 145, 328
jayhawker, 271
jeans, 145
jell, 271
jeopardize, 146
jerked (meat), 271
Jessie, 271
jew, jew down, 146
jibber, 146
jibe, 271
jig, 271
jigamaree, 146
jigger, 146, 271

jiggered, 271
jigsaw, 271
jimberjawed, 271
Jim Crow cars, 271
jimdandy, 271
jimjams, 271
jimmy, 146
jimson, 271
jitney, 271
jobbing house, 271
jog, 146
John, 272
Johnny, 272
johnnycake, 272
joint, 272
josey, 146
josh, 272
jounce, 146
jour, 272
joy ride, 272
juba, 272
Judas tree, 147
judgmatical, 272
judiciary, 147
judy, 272
jug, 147
jump a claim, 147
jump bail, 272
jumper, 272
jumping-off place, 272
junk, 147
jury-fixer, 272

karimpton, 272
katowse, 272
katydid, 272
kay, key, 272
keeler, 147
keen about, 272
keener, 272
keep (shop), 147
keeps, 272
ker, 272
kerosene, 272
key, 148
kiblings, 273
kick, 148
kicker, 273
kid, 148
kill, 273
killdeer, 273
kind o', 148
kindlers, kindlings, 273
kingbolt, 273
kink, 148
kinky, 273
kinnikinnick, killikinnick, 273
kit, 148
kitty cornered, 273
kiuse, 273
knee, 148
knickerbockers, 273
knob, 148
knock, 273
knock down, 148, 273
knock-kneed, 149
knownothings, 273
konk, 273
Ku Klux Klan, 273

lagniappe, 273
lagoon, 149
lambaste, 149
landscapist, 149
landshark, 149
landscrip, 273
lapstreak, 273
lariat, 273
larrigan, 274
lathy, 149
latter-day saints, 274
lave, 274
law day, 149
lawing, 150
law sakes, 274
lay, 274
lay out, 274
layering, 274
laze, 274
leader, 274
leastways, 150
leggins, 274
lengthy, 274
let down, 274
let up, 274
levee, 274
levy, 25, 274
lick, licks, 274
licketysplit, 274
lie low, 274
lieutenant, 32
light bread, 274

lightning bug, 275
light out, 275
lightwood, 274
likely, 150
lily pad, 275
limsy, 150
line, 275
liner, 275
lines, 275
list, 275
live, 150
live oak, 275
living price, living wage, 275
living-room, 275
live out, 275
loaf (idle), 275
loafer, 275
loan office, 150
lobby, 275
lobbygow, 275
loblolly, 275
localize, 275
locate, 150, 221
lock horns, 275
loco, 275
locofoco, 275
locust, 275
logger, 276
loggerhead, 151
logicize, 151
logies, 276
log-rolling, 276
logy, 276
long of a stock, 276
longshoreman, 276
longshort, 276
long sugar, long sweetening, 276
loon, 276
looseness, 276
lop down, 276
lost cause, 276
lot (of land), 276
lots, 276
low down, 276
low flung, 276
lucifer match, 151
lugs, 276
lumber, 276
lump it, 276
lunkhead, 276
lyceum, 151
lynch law, 151

ma'am school, 276
machine, 276
mackinac, 277
mad, 151
madstone, 277
maidenland, 277
mail, 277
maize, 277
make, make out, 277
make good, 277
make time, 277
make tracks, 277
make-up, 152
mango, 277
mammy, 277
manor, 152
mansard roof, 152
marabou, 277
marooning, 277
marywalkers, 277
mash, 277
masher, 277
mass meeting, 277
match, 277
materialize, 152
maul, 277
maverick, 277
max, 277
meadow, 152
mean, 278
medium, 278
meeting, meeting-house, 153
mend ("on the mend"), 153
menhaden, 278
merchandize, 153
merchant, 153
mesa, 278
mess, 153
mestizo, 278
metheglin, 153
metis, 278
mick, 278
middlings, 278
midget, 278
mileage, 278
mill, 278
mind, 278
mink, 278
minuteman, 278

miscegenation, 278
misery, 153
misrecollect, 153
misremember, 154
mission school, 278
missionate, 278
misstep, 278
mistake ("and no mistake"), 154
mitten, to get, 261, 278
mixed ticket, 278
mobocracy, 154
mock auction, 279
moke, 279
molasses, 154
Molly Maguires, 279
monitor, 279
monkey, 279
monkey business, monkey shines, 279
monte, 279
moondown, 279
moonglade, 279
moonrise, 154
moonshine, 154
mopboard, 279
morphodite, 154
mortal, 154
mortician, 279
Moses boat, 279
mosey, 279
mossback, 279
mossbunker, 279
most, 155
moth miller, 279
motte, 279
mountain lamb, 279
mourner, 279
mournsome, 155
move, 155
movie, 279
mucker, 279
muckraker, 279
muddle, 155
mud hen, 279
mud hook, 280
mudsill, 155
mugwump, 280, 342
mulatto, 155
muley saw, 280
mumblepeg, 155
mung (news), 280
murphy, 280
mush, 280
muskmelon, 155
muskrat, musquash, 280
muss, 156
mussy, 280
mustang, 280
muster out, 280
must not, must only, 280
muttonhead, 280
mux, 156

nabber, 156
nail, 280
naked (possessor), 280
nankeen, 156
nary, nary red, 280
national, 156
natur', 225
neck, 156, 280
necktie sociable, 280
neckwear, 281
ne'er, 156
negative, 156
neighborhood of, 281
nephew, 33
nerve, 281
netop, 281
never say die, 157
newsy, 157
N. G., 281
nice, 157
nicely, 281
nickel, 281
nickel plate, 328
nifty, 281
nig, 281
nigger, 157
niggerhead, 281
nigger heaven, 281
nigger off, nigger out, 281
nigh unto, nigh upon, 281
nightkey, 281
night riders, 281
nimshi, 281
ninepence, 281
nip, nipper, 157
nip and tuck, 281
nippent, 281
nipping, 158
nobby, 158

nocake, 281
noggin, 158
nohow, 158
non-committal, 281
noodlehead, 281
noodles, 158
nooning, 158
norther, northerner, 282
note, 282
notify a person, 158
notional, 159
notionate, 282
notions, 159
nub, 282
nutcake, 282
nutmeg melon, 282

oak barrens, oak openings, 282
obligate, 159
obligement, 159
obtusity, 159
occurrings, 282
octoroon, 282
of after gerund, 159
of after verbs of sensation, 159
off the reel, 282
offal, 282
office, 160
offish, 282
off ox, 282
offset, 282
O. K., 282
okra, 282
Old Glory, 282
Old Scratch, 282
old sledge, 282
oleomargarine, 160
olycook, 282
omnibus (bill), 282
once (as soon as), 160
once and again, 160
on a street, 282
on hand, on time, 283
on his ear, 328
on his feet, 328
on ice, 329
oodles, 283
operate, 160, 221
-or, -our (terminal), 36
opossum, 283
opposed, 283
orate, 160
ordinary, 160
organic law, 283
orphanage, 160
orts, 160
ou, ow, sounded ao, 31, 340
out, 161, 283
outfit, 283
outlawed, 283
out of fix, out of whack, 283
outs, 283
outside, 284
outsider, 161
over a signature, 161
over and above, 161
overcoat, 161
overhead, 284
overly, 162
overrun, 162
overslaugh, 284
overture, 162
own up, 284
oyster plant, 162

paas, 284
pack, 284
paddle, 284
painter, 284
pair, 284
palace car, 284
paleface, 284
palmetto, 284
pancake, 162
panfish, 284
pandowdy, 284
panel house, 284
panhandle, 284
panier, 162
panning, 284
pan out, 284
pantalette, 284
pappoose, 285
paragraphist, 162
pard, 285
parquet, 285
partyism, 285
pass (dividend), 285
passage (of a bill), 285
passageway, 285
patentable, 285
patent outsides, 285

patrolman, 285
patroons, 285
pawky, 285
pay dirt, 285
P. D. Q., 285
peach, 285
peach leather, 285
peaky, 162
peanut, 285
peas, 35
pecan, 285
peccary, 285
peddle, 163
peeler, 285
peel it, 285
peevy, 285
peg away, 285
pegged out, 285
pelter, 286
peltry, 163
pemmican, 286
penny (cent), 286
pentway, 286
peon, 286
pepperpot, 286
periauger, pirogue, 286
permit, 163
pernickity, 163
peroot, 286
persimmon, 286
pesky, 286
Peter Funk, 286
peter out, 286
pettifog, 163
phial, 33
piazza, 286
picayune, 286
pick, 163, 286
pickanninny, 286
pick-up, 286
piece (lunch), 286
pieplant, 286
pigeonhole, 163
pigeonwing, 286
pike, 286
piker, 163
pile, 164, 286
pill, disagreeable person, 286
pillowslip, 286
pimping, 164
pinch, 286
pindling, 287
pine barrens, 287
pinery, 287
pinky, 164, 287
pinxter, 287
pipe, 287
pipe laying, 287
pistareen, 287
pit (of fruit), 287
pitch and toss, 164
pitcher, 164
pitch in, 164
pitpan, 287
placate, 223
place, identify, 287
placer, 287
plaguey, 287
plane tree, 165
plank in politics, 287
plank down, plank up, 287
plant (bury), 287
plantain, 165
plantation, 165
play actor, 165
played out, 287
play possum, 287
pleasant-spoken, 287
pleasure, 165
plow, 35
pluck, 165
plug, 287, 329
plug hat, 287
pluguglies, 287
plumb centre, 287
plunk, 287
plurality, 287
ply, 165
poach, 165
pocket, 288
point (information), 288
poke, 166, 288
poke bonnet, 166
poker (game), 288
pokerish, 288
poky, 166
policy (game), 288
polt, 166
pompion, 166
pond, 166
pone, 288
pony (translation), 288

pony up, 288
pool (combine), 288
poorly, 166
pop, 167, 288
pop-eyed, 288
poppycock, 288
populist, 288
porgy, 288
portage, 288
porterhouse steak, 288
posey-yard, 288
posh, 167
post (inform), 288
postal currency, 288
post card, 288
pot hole, 167
potpie, 289
potter, 167
potwalloper, 167
pound party, 289
powder-post, 289
powerful (very), 289
powwow, 289
prairie, 289
prawchey, 289
prayerfully, 167
precinct, 167
predicate, 167
pre-empt, 289
preferential, 167
present (on envelope), 289
presidency, 168
presidential, 168
presidio, 289
prestidigitate, 168
presume likely, 289
pretty, 168
pretzel, 168
prex, 289
prickly heat, 289
primp, 168
Prince Albert, 290
printery, 290
probate, 290
processioner, 290
professor of religion, 168
prohibition, 290
properly, 169
proposition, 221
prospect, 290
publishment, 169
pudgicky, 290
pueblo, 290
pull (influence), 290
pullfoot, 290
pulling-bone, 290
pull through, 169
pulpiteer, 169
puny, 169
pulque, 290
puma, 290
puncheon, 290
pung, 290
push, 169
pusley, 329
pussy, 290
put (in stock market), 290
put, put off, put out, 169
put up, 290
put up job, 170
putting on side, 319

quackgrass, 291
quadroon, 291
quahaug, 291
qualify, 291
quarter (of a dollar), 291
quarterage, 291
quashie, 170
quid, 291
quiddling, 291
quirl, 291
quirt, 291
quit, 170
quite, in such phrases as "quite a while," 170, 291

race, 291
rack, 291
rackabones, 291
racker, 170
raft, 291
rag (time), 291
ragged edge, 329
rail (of a fence), 171
railroad, 171
raise, 171, 291
rake down, rake off, 291
rakehelly, 171
rambunctious, 291
ranch, 291
range, 171, 292

rangy, 292
rank, 292
rantankerous, 292
rapids, 292
rare (meat), 171, 335
rareripe, 292
rating, 292
ratoons, 292
rattler, rattlesnake, 292
rattletrap, 171
rave, 172
rawhide, 292
razee, 172
reach, 172
read out, 172
real, 172
real healthy, 330
reata, 292
reboso, 292
reckon, 25
recommend, 172
record-breaking, 316
recoup, recoupment, 172
red cent, red dog, 292
redeem, 292
red root. 292
red tape, 173
regret, 292
rehash, 173
reinsure, 292
reland, 173
reliable, 173
remind, 173
remonetize, 292
removability, 292
rench, 173
rendition, 173
renewedly, 173
reopen, 173
repeater, 293
repetitious, 174
reportorial, 293
reprobacy, 174
requisition, 174
researcher, 174
reserve, reservation, 293
residenter, 174
resolve, 174
responsible, 293
restitutionists, 293
result, 174
resurrect, 174
retiracy, 174
retirement, 293
retortive, 293
retrospect, 175
revamp, 293
revelator, 293
revocal, 293
rich, 175
ride, drive, 44, 293
ride-and-tie, 175
rider, 175
riding-rock, ridingway, 293
rig, 293
right, 175
right along, 293
right away, 317, 293
right here, right off, 293
right smart, 293
right straight, 294
right up, 176
ring, ringer, 294
ringtailed roarer, 294
rip, 176, 294
ripper, 294
rip out, 294
ripple, 293
riprap, 294
ripsnorter, 294
rising, rising ground, 294
risky, 294
riveter, 36
roach, 294
road agent, 294
roarer, 176
robe, 294
robin, 294
rock, rocks, 294
rockaway, 294
rocker, 294
rogue, 176
rolling (land), 295
room, 295
roorback, 295
rooster, 176
rooter, 295
rope in, 295
roram, 295
rose fever, 295
roster, 176
rote, 176

rough, 177, 295
rough-and-tumble, 295
roughhouse, 295
roughness, 295
roughscuff, 295
round one, to get, 295
roundabout, 177
rounder, 295
round up, 177
rouser, 177
roustabout, 295
rowdy, 295
rubber, rubbers, rubberneck, 177, 295
rugged, 295
ruination, 177
rullichies, 295
rumbud, 295
rumhole, rummill, 295
run, 177, 295
runabout, 296
runner, 296
runway, 296
rush, 296
rush the growler, 296
rust (of fish), 296
rustle, 296
rye-and-indian, 296

Sabbaday, 296
saddy, 296
safe, 178
sagebrush, 296
sakes, sakes alive, 296
salamander, 296
saleratus, 296
saloon, 296
salt-lick, 296
Sam, 296
sambo, 296
Sam Hill, 296, 330
samp, 296
sample-room, 297
sand (pluck), 297
sang, 297
sappy, 178
sapsago, 297
sapsucker, 297
Saratoga (trunk), 297
sarcophagus, 178
sauce, 178
sault, 297
savagerous, 297
savanna, 297
save (kill), 297
sawbuck, sawhorse, 297
sawyer, 297
say (prefix to sentence), 297
say-so, 178
scab, 297
scalawag, 297
scaling down, 330
scalp, scalper, 297
scare, scare up, 178, 297
scary, 297
scat, 297
scattering, 178
schedule, 32
schnapps, 179
schooner (large glass), 297
scientist, 179
scoop, 297
scoot, 179
scorch, 297
scrabble, 179
scrap, 179, 297
scrapple, 298
scratch, scratch gravel, 298
scratches, 179
screed, 179, 330
screws, 179
screwsman, 180
scribblement, 180
scringe, 180
scrub, 298
scruff, 180
scrumptious, 298
scuff, 180, 298
sculduggery, 180, 301
sculp, sculpin, scup, 298
scut, 298
scutum, 298
seal (wife), 298
sealer, 180
season, 298
second, 298
section, sectional, 298
seeding, 180
seen, 181
seep, 181
selectman, 298
sell, 181

sensationism, sensationist, 181
sense (verb), 298
serape, 298
serious, 181
set, 181
set by, set store by, 181
setback, 182
setting pole, 182
settle, 182
settlement, 298
settle one's hash, 182
settler, 182
seven-up, 298
shack, shackly, 298
shadbelly, 298
shade (a price), 299
shadow, 183
shady, keep, 299
shagbark, 299
shake dice, 183
shakedown, 299
shakers, 183
shakes, 183, 299
shakiness, 183
shaky, 183
shanghai, 299
shanty, 299
sharp, sharp practice, 183
sharpey, 299
shave, shaver, 184
shay, 299
sheath knife, 184
shebang, 299
shecoonery, 299
sheeny, 184
sheepshead, 299
sheepskin, 299
sheer, 184
shell, 184, 299
shenanigan, 299
sherrivallies, 185
shifty, 185
shillagalee, 299
shilling, 299
shimmy, 185
shin, shin round, 299
shindy, 185
shine, shiner, 185, 299
shingle, 185, 299
shingle-weaver, 299
shinny, 186
shinplaster, 299
shock (of grain), 186
shoddy, 186
shone, 32
shoot, 186
shooter, shooting iron, 300
short, to sell, 300
shortage, 300
shorts, 186
should, for the infinitive, 300
shove, 186, 300
shoveler, 186
show, show off, 186
shut pan, 300
shy, shy of, 300
shyster, 300
sick, 44, 72, 187
side-hill, 187
sideling, 187
side line, 300
sidestep, 300
sidewalk, 187
sidewheeler, 300
sidewipe, 187
siding, 300
sidle, 188
sierra, 300
sign, sign off, 300
signalize, 188
sin (since), 188
sinews, 188
sing out, 188
sink, sink-hole, 300
sirree, 188
sistern, 188
sit up with, 188
size up, 300
sizz, sizzle, 188
skate, 300
skeary, 188
skedaddle, 189
skeezicks, 300
skid, 189
skin, 301
skipjack, 189
skipper, 189
skite, 189
skive, 189
skullduggery, 180, 301
skunk, 301
skylark, 189

skyugle, 301
sky parlor, 189
sky pilot, 189
slab, 190
slabsided, 301
slack baked, 190
slang, 190
slantendicular, 190
slapjack, 301
slashes, 301
slate, 301
slaver, 301
slazy, sleazy, 301
sleep, sleeping-car, 301
sleigh, sleighing, 301
sleuth, 301
slew, slue, 301
slide, 190
slimsy, 301
sling, 301
slink, 190
slip, 190, 301
slipnoose, 301
sliver, 32
slop over, 191
slope, 191, 301
slosh, 191
slouch ("no slouch"), 191
slough, 191
slug, 191
sluice, 191
slump, 301
slungshot, 301
slut, 191
smack, 192
smart, 192, 302
smile, 302
smitch, 193
smokestack, 193
smooth, 193
smouch, 193
snake, 193, 302
snakehead, 302
snake in, snake out, 302
snap, 302
snarl, 193
sneak thief, 302
sneaking, 193
sneeze, 194
snide, 194
snifter, 302
snip, snippy, 194
snoop, 302
snoozer, 302
snore, 302
snorter, 302
snowbound, 194
snub up, 302
snug, 194, 302
soak, soaker, 302
soapberry, 194
soaplock, 302
socdolager, 302
social, sociable, 302
soda, 302
soddy, 302
soft, 194, 303
soft sawder, snap, thing, 303
soft soap, 194
sog, 194
soldier, 303
solid color, 303
so long, 195
some (somewhat), 195
soon (early), 195
sopsyvine, 195
sot, 195
sots, 303
sou marquee, 303
sour on a thing, 303
sourkrout, 195
souse, 195
southerner, 195
southron, 196
sozzle, 196
span (of horses), 196
span, clean, 196
spang, 303
spanner, 196
spare room, 196
spark, 303
spat, 196, 303
speakeasy, 303
specie, 196
speck, 197
specs, 197
speedway, 303
spell, 197
spellbinder, 303
spellingbee, 303
spending-money, 197
spider, 303

spike team, 303
spile, 197
spit-ball, spit-curl, 303
spittoon, 197, 303
splendiferous, 197
split, split ticket, 303
splorum, 198
splurge, 198
spoils, 198
spondoolics, 303
spook, 198
spoops, 303
sport, 303
sportsman, 198
sposh, 304
spotter, 304
spouty, 198
spread, 198
spread one's self, 304
spread-eagle, 198
spree, 198
springer, 304
sprout, 199
spruce, spruce beer, 199
spruced up, 199
sprung, 304
squaddy, 199
squail, 199
square, 199, 304
square room, 304
squash, 200
squasho, 330
squatter, 200
squeaky, 200
squeal, 200
squeezer, 304
squib, 200
squinny, 200
squirt, 304
squush, 304
stag, stag party, 200
staging, 304
stake out, 304
stale, 200
stalwart, 304
stampede, 304
stamping-ground, 304
stanchel, 201
stand in hand, 201
stand off, stand pat, 304
standee, 304
star, 201
stated supply, 304
statehouse, 201
stateroom, 201
station-house, 201
stave, staver, staving, 304
stay-at-home, 201
steep, 304, 329
stemwinder, 304
step-ladder, 201
stick, 201, 304
stick-in-the-mud, 202
stiff, 304, 305
still-hunting, 305
stingaree, 305
stinkard, 202
stinkstone, 202
stinkweed, 202
stitch, 202
stive, 202
stock, 202, 203
stock and fluke, 202
stock watering, 305
stocking feet, 202
stocky, 203
stogie, 305
stool, stool pigeon, 305
stomp, 203
stoop, 203
store, 203
storekeeper, 305
storm, 203
story, 35
stovepipe, 203
stovepipe hat, 305
stowaway, 203
straddle, straddlebug, 305
straight, 305
strain, 203
stram, 305
strand, 204
strapped, 305
straw, 305
streak, streaked, streaky, 204, 305
street yarn, 305
stretch, "on a stretch," 204
strike, 204, 305
stripe, 305
stuck up, 204, 330
stripper, 305
strowd, 305

stub toe, 305
stuck on, 305
stud, 305
stump, 204, 305
stumpage, 305
stumper, 305
stump speaker, 306
stunner, 205
stunning, 205
stunk, 205
suability, 306
sub-base, 205
sub-treasurer, 205
sucker, suck in, 205, 306
suicide (verb), 205
suit, 206
suit of hair, 306
suitcase, 306
sulky, 206
summarize, 206
summons (verb), 206
sump, 306
sunbonnet, 206
sunday, 306
sunshade, 206
sun up, 306
supawn, 207
supplejack, 207
sure, 207
surrogate, 207
surveyor, 207
susceptible, 207
suspenders, 207
suspicion (verb), 207
sustain fatal wound, 306
swag, 306
swamp, 207
swamping, 306
swan, 306
swankey, 306
swash, 208
swat, 208
swear in, swear off, 306
sweeny, 306
swingletree, 208
switch, 208
switchel, 306
syren, 208
systemize, 208

tab (to keep), 307
tabby cat, 208
tabernacle, 208
table, 208
tablespread, 307
tacker, 209
tacky, 307
tads, 307
taffy, 209
tag, 209
tailings, 209
tailor (fish), 307
take, 307
take back track, 307
take down, 209
take in, 330
take rag off, shine off, 307
take the stump, 307
take up, take water, 209, 307
taking, 209
talk, 209
talk turkey, 307
talking iron, 307
tallow dip, 307
tamarack, 307
tangent, fly off on, 209
tanglefoot, 307
tangleleg, 209, 307
tapa, 307
tarheel, 307
tarnal, 210
tarve, 210
tattler, 307
Taunton turkeys, 307
tavern, 210
tax, 308
teafight, 308
team, 210
tear, tear round, 308
teeter, 308
teethache, 308
teetotally, 210
telegram, 308
telephone, 210
telescope, 308
tell, tell good bye, 210
tell on, 308
tend, 211
tender, 308
tenderfoot, tenderloin, 308
tenement house, 308
tenpins, 211

ten-strike, 308
terawchy, 308
terrapin, 308
terret, 211
texas, 308
thank-ye-ma'ams, 308
that (so), 211
thereaway, 211
thirds, 211
thrash round, 211
thirty, 308
thoroughfare, 308
thoroughwort, 309
thrip, 211
throw up, 211
thunderheads, 309
thwart, 211
ticker, 309
ticket, 309
tickler, 309
tidy, 211
tidy up, 212
tie, 212
tie up, 212
tiger, 309
tight, 212, 309
tile, 212
tilt, tilter, 309
timber, 212
time ("a good time"), 212
time and again, 309
time, to make, 309
time, on, 309
timothy, 309
tinker, 213
tinner, 213
tip off, 309
tipcart, 309
tipple, 213
tippybobs, 213
tiptop, 213
tithing-man, 213
to (for *at* or *in*), 14, 20, 213
to pronounced toe, 225
toadfish, 213
toadsticker, 309
toboggan, 309
toddy, 213
toe the mark, 214
tom, 309
tom dog, tom turkey, 214
tonguey, 225
tongs, 309
too thin, 214
toot, 214
Tophet, 214
top notch, 309
topsawyer, 214
torchlight procession, 331
to rights, 175, 176
tortle, 214
tote, 214, 309
tottlish, 309
touch, 215
touch-and-go, 215
touch-me-not, 215
touch-off, 309
tough, 309
tough it out, 310
tow, 215
town, 215
townhouse, 215
township, 215
towrow, 215
trace, 216
track, 216
trade, 310
trail, 216
trailer, 310
trainers, 216
training-day, 216
trait, 32
tramp, trampoos, 216
transient, 216
transpire, 223, 310
transportation, 221
trap fishing, 310
traps, 217
trash, 217
traveler, 35
treat, 217
tree (verb), 310
treenail, 310
trick (turn), 310
trimmings, 217
troll, 217
trot (translation), 310
trot out, 217
truck, 217, 310
trump, 217
trust, 310
try on, 217

tuck on, 310
tuckered out, 310
tumble, tumble to, 217, 310
tumblebug, 310
turfman, 218
turnip, 218
turnpike, 310
turret ship, 218
turtler, 218
tussle, 218
Tuxedo coat, 310
tyke, 218
type, typo, 310

ultraism, 310
uncle, 310
under the weather, 310
undercoat, 310
underhew, 310
underpinners, 311
underpinning, 218
unfeeling, 218
unfellowshipped, 311
unseated, 311
up to, up to snuff, 311
upper crust, upper ten, 311
upright, 311
usable, 311
used up, 311
uxoricide, 311

valedictory, valedictorian, 311
valinch, 219
vamose, 311
variate, 311
various (noun), 311
vegetarian, 311
vendibility, 219
vendue, 219
vigilance committee, 311
vim, 311
violative, 311
visit (chat), 311
vum, 311

waffle, 311
wagged out, 311
wagon, 35
waist (bodice), 312
walk into, walk over, 312
walking papers or ticket, 312
wall paper, 312
wallow (noun), 312
wamblecropped, womblecropped, 312
wash-out, 312
watergap, 312
watershed, 312
waterwitch, 312
waumus, 312
wax, 312
waybill, 312
way passenger, station, train, 312
weaken, 219
wed for wedded, 312
well, 219
well come up with, 312
wesand, 312
wet, 312
whaling, 313
whang, 313
whapperjaw, 313
wheal, 220
whelk, 220
whiffet, 313
whiffletree, 313
whip (defeat), 313
whippersnapper, 313
whippoorwill, 313
whipstock, 313
whisky skin, 313
whitewash (person or action), 313
whole-souled, 313
wide awake, 220
wide open, 313
wildcat (investment), 313
windfall, 313
winery, 313
wire, wire edge, wire pullers, 313
wisdom tooth, 220
wishbone, 313
wolfish, 220
wolverine, 313, 331
woodchuck, 313
woodrick, 313
work-a-day clothing, 313
worm fence, 313
worriment, 314
worrisome, 220
woodsman, 220

wrapper, 314
wrathy, 314
wunst, 221

yaller dog, 331
yank, 221
yankee, 315
yankee notions, 314
yard (garden), 314
yearling, 314
yegg, yeggman, 314
yellow, 314
yellow jack, 221
York shilling, 314
young person, 44

zee, 314
zit, 314

AUG 24 1921

